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UN Experts Assert Iraq Hides Germ Weapons

Report on Baghdad's Biological Arms Calls Disclosures 'Incomplete and Inadequate'

By Barbara Crossette
New York Times Service

UNITED NATIONS, New York — A team of independent experts who reviewed Iraq's progress in eliminating biological weapons at Baghdad's request have rejected President Saddam Hussein's contention that he no longer has a germ warfare program.

The experts' report, made public on Thursday, called Iraqi disclosures "incomplete and inadequate" and said that Baghdad had failed to convince them "that resources such as weapons, bulk agents, bulk media and seed stocks have been eliminated."

Most disturbing, the report said, were Iraqi claims that they had destroyed missile warheads containing biological weapons. The Iraqi account, the experts said, "cannot be reconciled with physical evidence."

The findings are a blow to Iraq, which had demanded the independent review in the hope that it would present a more positive picture of Iraqi compliance than that of the United Nations Special Commission, which has been monitoring Iraqi disarmament since 1991. UN inspectors say that Baghdad could still have an active germ warfare weapons program or the ingredients to produce extremely lethal biological weapons quickly.

Iraq and the Security Council are now heading into another critical and potentially explosive few weeks, culminating in the first major review of sanctions against Iraq since Secretary-

General Kofi Annan concluded an agreement with Mr. Hussein in February that headed off a threatened American-led military attack.

Iraqi officials have been talking confidently of closing the book on sanctions this year. That will certainly not happen in this review, diplomats say.

But diplomats and UN officials have not ruled out some movement on easing sanctions by the autumn. Russia, France and China, which have commercial interests in Iraq, have argued that the embargo cannot last forever. Russian and French officials as well as Mr. Annan have been telling Iraq that it must cooperate with inspections to strengthen its position. Iraq's interpretation of co-operation remains unclear, however.

The recently completed inspections of eight formerly off-limits presidential properties in Iraq, made possible by Mr. Annan's agreement, are being touted by the Iraqis as significant cooperation.

A report on those inspections, in which officials of the UN Special Commission, or Unscorn, were accompanied by diplomats, will be sent to the Security Council next week.

But some serious questions remain unanswered about those inspections, and these could add to Iraq's problems in coming weeks.

When Mr. Annan signed the pact with Iraq on Feb. 23, Iraqi officials suggested that they regarded the presidential site inspections as one-time events.

Mr. Annan and Richard Butler, the

See IRAQ, Page 12



Outburst of Anger Resounds Across Russia

Communist-era flag in hand, protesters in Moscow sounding off on Thursday about wages, jobs and economic policy. The protests began in Vladivostok in the Far East, eight time zones away, and continued through Siberia into Western Russia as the day progressed. Hundreds of thousands took part. Page 5.

Under Pressure, Tokyo Cuts Taxes

Short-Term Move Is Praised; Calls for Deep Reform Persist

By Sandra Sugawara
Washington Post Service

TOKYO — Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto unveiled a plan on Thursday to cut income taxes by \$30 billion, responding to rising domestic and international pressure by taking a step that several economists predicted could — in the short term — stop Japan's slide into a recession.

At a televised news conference, Mr. Hashimoto also said that his total package to stimulate the weakened economy and restore consumer confidence and spending would exceed \$120 billion, as proposed by his Liberal Democratic Party. More than \$60 billion would be spent on public works, focusing on information and communications systems, facilities to deal with an aging society, and environmental cleanup.

Although Mr. Hashimoto gave few additional details about the tax-and-spending plan, the announcement was applauded by Thomas Foley, the U.S. ambassador to Japan, who called it "very encouraging." The United States has led a rising chorus of foreign nations clamoring for tax cuts to revive economic growth in Japan. (Page 17.)

A senior official from the International Monetary Fund said Thursday that he hoped Japan's new effort to stimulate its economy would live up to international expectations. The Associated Press reported from Washington.

"We are hopeful that the details, which will certainly be distilled over the next few hours and days, will be up to world expectations," said the official.

Mr. Foley said: "I think it is a bold action. It is certainly action that represents a sharp increase in stimulation efforts on the part of the Japanese."

Investors in global currency markets initially expressed some doubt about the plan by bidding the value of the U.S. dollar higher. The central bank of Japan, aided by the U.S. Federal Reserve according to some reports, quickly intervened, and the dollar moved back down. In late trading in New York, the dollar was at 131.225 yen, down from 131.325 on Wednesday. Mr. Hashimoto's address came after the close of the Tokyo Stock Market.

In Washington, Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin praised the tax cuts. "What is crucial is that Japan move quickly to put in place a strong program," he said.

Within Japan, Mr. Hashimoto's handling of the economy over the last several months has sent his popularity rating plummeting, but some analysts said his performance Thursday night might turn that around.

See YEN, Page 17



Prime Minister Hashimoto also plans to raise spending on public projects.

150 Pilgrims To Mecca Die In Stampede On a Bridge

The Associated Press

MECCA — A stampede broke out Thursday on a crowded bridge near Mecca, killing more than 150 Muslim pilgrims on the last day of the hajj. Saudi officials said.

Some of the victims were trampled, and others fell to their death.

Most of the victims were from Indonesia and Malaysia and were described as elderly men and women. Other victims included Indians, Moroccans, Tunisians, Pakistanis and Egyptians, the officials reported.

The stampede occurred on a desert plain in searing heat as pilgrims performed a ritual known as "stoning the devil," the official Saudi Press Agency said. It put the death toll at 107.

At the ceremony, pilgrims throw seven chickpea-size stones at pillars three times over as many days. The pillars symbolize the temptations of Satan.

The stampede broke out on a bridge at Mina, 5 kilometers (3 miles) from Mecca, where 2.3 million Muslims from about 100 countries have gathered, the agency said.

The hajj pilgrimage is an obligation once in a lifetime of every able-bodied Muslim who can afford it.

The police tried to rescue some of the pilgrims, but the surging crowds prevented them from getting near, the agency added.

Crowds of tens of thousands had struggled with heat that hovered above 38 degrees Celsius (100 Fahrenheit). Helicopters had hovered overhead to spot pilgrims fainting, and workers threw small bags of chilled water from trucks to those making their way to the site.

To shield themselves, pilgrims covered their heads with towels or carried umbrellas, some inscribed with "God is great."

Policemen using loudspeakers had pleaded in Arabic, English, French and

See HAJJ, Page 12

AGENDA

Where's Karadzic? U.S. Isn't Certain

The United States said Thursday that the noose was tightening around Radovan Karadzic, the former Bosnian Serb leader, but that it could not confirm negotiations were going on for his surrender to international justice.

The State Department was responding to a report from London that Mr. Karadzic, the most wanted war crimes suspect of the Bosnian war, was seeking terms of surrender to the international war crimes tribunal in The Hague. Page 12.

The Dollar			
	Thursday @ 4 P.M.	previous close	
New York	1.8235	1.8145	
DM	1.6707	1.6783	
Pound	1.8120	1.8126	
Yen	6.1123	6.081	

The Dow			
	Thursday close	previous close	
Dow Jones	8984.86	8891.48	
S&P 500	1110.67	1101.65	

Tornadoes Kill 38 In the U.S. South

Tornadoes in the American South have killed at least 38 people across the region. Hardest hit was Jefferson County, west of Birmingham, Alabama, with at least 18 people dead and several communities devastated. At least 30 people were killed in Alabama, and five in Georgia. At least 40 people in Alabama were hospitalized, half of them critically. Page 3.

A Tobacco Bluff?

Congress believes the tobacco companies are bluffing and plans to push anti-smoking legislation in spite of the firms' decision to withhold cooperation from the law-making process. President Bill Clinton said the companies were making "a big mistake." Page 3.

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The Internet
The IHT online www.iht.com

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Andorra	10.00 FF	Labanon	11.3000
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Italy	2.800 Lire	Spain	225 Ptas
Israel	1.250 NIS	Tunisia	1.250 Din
Jordan	1.250 JD	U.A.E.	10.00 Dh
Kuwait	700 Fils	U.S. M.	(Eur) \$1.20

Talks on Ulster Go Down to the Wire

Leaders of Britain and Ireland Are Said to Accept Settlement

By T.R. Reid
Washington Post Service

BELFAST — A tense struggle between intransigence and idealism stretched late into Thursday night as negotiators worked toward an agreement that could fulfill a dream of historic dimensions: peace in Northern Ireland.

The prime ministers of Britain and Ireland, working from borrowed offices at the Stormont Castle complex here, both reportedly accepted a settlement proposal that would preserve Northern Ireland's links to Britain but build a closer relationship with the Republic of Ireland. That in itself would be a historic breakthrough.

The remaining question was whether the two heads of state could sell the plan to the leaders of the eight Ulster political parties still involved in the talks.

The agreement would mark the biggest change in governmental arrangements in Northern Ireland since the island of Eire was divided in 1920 into what became the independent and overwhelmingly Roman Catholic nation of Ireland and the predominantly Protestant British province of Northern Ireland in the northeast corner. It would give Northern Ireland an elected assembly and prime minister of its own, in alliance with Britain, while creating several cross-border commissions with authority shared between the two Irelands.

As darkness fell over the green, forested castle grounds, there was considerable speculation that the bargain-

ing would extend past midnight Thursday, the deadline set by the chairman of the talks, former U.S. Senator George Mitchell.

This would presumably not surprise Mr. Mitchell, who, as majority leader, occasionally stopped the clocks in the Senate when a scheduled deadline was endangered there.

On a strange spring day that saw snow falling from a sunny blue sky, the atmosphere among the negotiators seemed to swing back and forth as wildly as the weather. But most assessments were optimistic.

"I think we are going to make this deal," said Monica McWilliams, head of a centrist party, the Northern Ireland Women's Coalition. "I am 100 percent confident that we'll do it by tonight, or tomorrow morning, or at the latest by

President Clinton has invested much effort in the talks. Page 12.

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See ULSTER, Page 12

Militant Islamists in Morocco: 'Preparing for Future'

By Marilee Simons
New York Times Service

CASABLANCA, Morocco — A group of students at the University of Casablanca were comparing notes about how they were being courted by militants of an Islamic movement.

One month the recruiters offered cultural visits to Marrakesh. Another time they volunteered to distribute free photocopies of textbooks, which are expensive and scarce. Last year, another student recalled, the recruiters offered karate lessons and special coaching for exams.

"They all pretend that they just want to help us," said Amina Maadi, a second-year economics student. "They really want us to get involved in their causes."

Militant Islamic groups have been mobilizing and expanding in Morocco, as they have in other Muslim countries. By assisting the sick, the widowed and the

unemployed, they have gained followers in the shantytowns in Tangier, Rabat and Casablanca. Their charities run blood banks and help people organize funerals. On feast days they offer lamb or mutton to the poor.

The groups have been steadily reaching into the educational system, enlisting high school teachers and university students, both men and women. Until a recent crackdown, most student leaders of the country's 14 universities belonged to Justice and Charity, the larger and more radical of Morocco's two main Islamic movements.

The Islamists have made inroads at schools because they seize on the frustrations of the students with the lack of job opportunities and the shortage of classrooms. But estimates about Muslim militants who are hostile to the government are imprecise.

"It is very difficult to measure the impact of these

organizations," said Mohammed Tozy, a political scientist who has written extensively about religion and Islamic politics in Morocco. "There are many claims, going from 50,000 to 500,000 members. They are a minority, but they are very motivated, very determined. As in much of the Arab world, they grow because of the great malaise, the social injustice, the harsh life in the cities, the generation gap."

Most Moroccan youths are not anti-Western. But many who do not belong to the ranks of the rich resent the lack of jobs and a culture of corruption. Unemployment is officially put at 17 percent but generally held to be much higher.

A recent opinion poll that startled the Establishment said almost 90 percent of Moroccans between the ages of 20 and 29 want to leave the country. Among

See MOROCCO, Page 12

Vitamin C Dosage Risks?

Study Finds Possible Harm From Too Much

By Jane E. Brody
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — Those who think that if a little vitamin C is good, more must be better should think again, say a team of British researchers, who found that a supplement of 500 milligrams a day could damage people's genes.

Many Americans take that much, or more, in hopes of preventing colds and reaping the widely celebrated antioxidant benefits of vitamin C. Antioxidants, which block cellular and molecular damage caused by the highly reactive molecules called free radicals, are believed to protect against heart disease, cancer, eye disorders like cataracts and macular degeneration, and other chronic health problems.

But the British researchers, chemical pathologists at the University of Leicester, found in a six-week study of 30 healthy men and women that a daily 500-milligram supplement of vitamin C had pro-oxidant as well as antioxidant effects on DNA, which houses the genes. The researchers found that at the 500-

milligram level, vitamin C promoted genetic damage by free radicals to a part of the DNA, the adenine bases, that had not previously been measured in studies of the vitamin's oxidative properties.

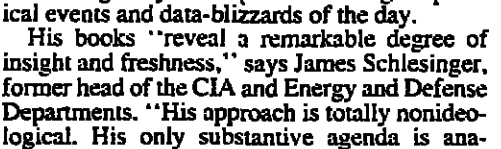
The finding, published in the British journal Nature, corroborates warnings that have been issued for decades by an American physician, Victor Herbert, professor of medicine at the Mount Sinai School of Medicine in New York. Dr. Herbert has shown, primarily through laboratory studies, that vitamin C supplements promote the generation of free radicals from iron in the body.

Dr. Herbert said, "The vitamin C in supplements mobilizes harmless ferric iron stored in the body and converts it to harmful ferrous iron, which induces damage to the heart and other organs."

"Unlike the vitamin C naturally present in foods like orange juice, vitamin C as a supplement is not an antioxidant," Dr. Herbert said. "It's a redox agent — an antioxidant in some circumstances and a pro-oxidant in others."

Late Again: Yergin, A Writer With Perfect Timing

CHARLES DICKENS is a major hero. Mr. Yergin might be one of his creations. The extraordinary timing of his best-known books, he insists, is "entirely due to my inability to meet deadlines." "If I had finished my books on time, they would have been too ahead of the news to attract notice," he says. "And they would probably have been quite different as well because books



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people were leading the march
although the footprints of the
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Mr. Yergin was still pursuing a journalistic career, writing regularly for New York, the Atlantic, The New York Times Magazine, various British papers and the International Herald Tribune, particularly personality profiles that taught him "how to shape a story."

Prime Minister Vincent Siew but Chiang Pin-kung, chairman of Taiwan's Council for Economic Planning and Development, who said that the falling yen might seriously harm Taiwan's econ-

Because of an editing error, an article and caption in Thursday's editions misattributed a comment about the yen's impact on Taiwan. It was not Prime Minister Vincent Siew but Chiang Pin-kung, chairman of Taiwan's Council for Economic Planning and Development, who said that the falling yen might seriously harm Taiwan's economy.

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730	360	57%
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ISTANBUL, TURKEY

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صبراً من الامل

Clinton and Co
To Call Tobacco
The House of Representatives

Romanian Contingent

10-11-1964

Abstract

Gulf Air

THE AMERICAS

Clinton and Congress To Call Tobacco's 'Bluff'

They Vow to Press Anti-Smoking Bill

New York Times Service

WASHINGTON — Influential lawmakers say they think the tobacco industry is bluffing in its decision to stop working for comprehensive legislation to regulate the industry, and President Bill Clinton and the congressional leaders say they will press ahead with the legislation.

"The public demands action, with or without the industry's support," said Senator John McCain, Republican of Arizona, chairman of the Senate Commerce Committee.

Mr. Clinton called the industry's position "a big mistake" and said: "We're going to get this done. Now, they can be part of it or they can fight it."

The chairman of the RJR Nabisco Holdings Corp., Steven Goldstone, announced the new policy in a speech Wednesday, saying that his company would begin aggressively advertising cigarettes and defending its position in court.

The three other big tobacco companies — Philip Morris Cos., Brown & Williamson Tobacco Corp., a subsidiary of BAT Industries, and Lorillard Tobacco, a subsidiary of the Loews Corp. — quickly issued statements supporting Mr. Goldstone's position.

The industry asserts that legislation approved last week by the Commerce Committee would drive companies into bankruptcy. The bill would not give the companies the protection they want from lawsuits based on smoking-related illnesses.

Mr. Goldstone said in his luncheon speech, "There is no process which is even remotely likely to lead to an acceptable comprehensive solution this year."

The dominant view in Congress is that the Senate bill is the baseline and that if a law is enacted, the changes made in the legislative process ahead would probably make the measure even less favorable to the manufacturers.

One theory among legislators is that the industry has learned from the political failure of the June tobacco settlement that their endorsement of any measure amounted to a kiss of death. They are such pariahs that few lawmakers can afford to be on their side.

But no one outside the industry can be sure what the announcement Wednesday means. The tobacco industry has dissembled so often in the past, about whether cigarettes cause diseases, about whether nicotine is addictive, about whether they market their product to children, that people are never sure what to make of the companies' pronouncements.

Mr. Goldstone alluded to this in his

speech Wednesday. "To be completely honest," he said, "those of us in the industry did not appreciate fully the depth of the mistrust and anger that existed about the industry's past controversies."

Mr. Clinton said Wednesday that the companies' actions would not prohibit Congress from passing legislation to reduce teenage smoking. But he also implored the companies to rethink their announcement.

"But I hope that RJR will reconsider because obviously when it comes to advertising, for example, and restricting advertising aimed directly at children, it would be better if we had a common position," Mr. Clinton said. "I have been working for two years. I don't intend to stop now and I think we've got an excellent chance of passing a good piece of legislation to dramatically reduce smoking among young people and save lives. And I don't think there's much in it for RJR or anybody else to walk away, so I hope they will reconsider."

Despite the resolve in Congress and the White House to press ahead, the companies' decision to pull out creates complications.

Congress has the authority to take many of the legislative steps under consideration without the industry's permission. It can, for example, impose a tax to raise the price of cigarettes and give the Food and Drug Administration broad authority to regulate nicotine as a drug. It can also appropriate money for anti-smoking commercials and smoking-cessation programs.

But two main parts of the bill approved by Mr. McCain's committee are questionable constitutionally without the industry's cooperation. One would put strict limits on cigarette advertising, a possible breach of the First Amendment guarantee of free speech. The other would force the companies to pay penalties if youth smoking rates did not fall to specified levels, a potential violation of their due process rights.

Under the Senate bill, these problems would be overcome because the companies would voluntarily sign what is called a protocol agreeing to the marketing restrictions and the penalties. In exchange, the legislation would place an annual ceiling of \$6.5 billion on the amount the industry would have to pay in damage claims.

This is where Mr. Goldstone backed out.

"The bill that Senator McCain has requires my signature," he asserted, "and there is no chance in the world it's going to get my signature."



Earline Jackson of Sylvan Springs, Alabama, surveying her destroyed home on Thursday. Mrs. Jackson, her husband, brother-in-law and grandson took shelter in the cellar of the dwelling and survived the storm.

38 Die as Tornados Rip Across South

The Associated Press

BIRMINGHAM, Alabama — At least 38 people were killed across the South as tornadoes ripped the region, officials said Thursday.

The Jefferson County sheriff, Jim Woodward, said 30 people died in a cluster of communities near Birmingham. Two other people died in adjoining St. Clair County.

At least 104 people were injured, Governor Fob James said.

The search for victims and survivors will continue because some older residents don't have family in the area and may not have been accounted for.

Five others died in Georgia, including a soldier at Fort Stewart, and one in Mississippi.

Mr. James, at a news briefing Thursday morning, said that the death count

had risen to 24 and that 104 people were injured. At least 40 people were still hospitalized, several in critical condition. He said that 150 homes had been destroyed and that 300 more had sustained major damage from the tornado.

The powerful storm system sparked warnings an hour before sunset and then began a twisted, random trail of destruction across Alabama two hours later, at 8 P.M.

Homes of wood and brick in Rock Creek were reduced to their foundations, with household appliances scattered across yards and tree limbs and power lines across streets.

The Rock Creek Church of God was turned into a trauma center.

In the glare of spotlights, bodies lying along the road could be seen in the early-morning dark in Rock Creek. Chain

saws buzzed as searchers desperately tried to get to homes cut off by felled trees, overturned cars and the bricks and timber of ruined buildings. One car rested atop the remnants of a gas station. An old school bus, converted into a camper, was upside down.

The storm system roared into Georgia early Thursday, with high winds and heavy rain and hail. Two people died in the Dunwoody area northeast of Atlanta, one when a tree fell on a house.

Two hundred miles (300 kilometers) to the southeast, the death of a soldier was reported at Fort Stewart, and a woman and a 13-year-old girl were killed in a mobile home community just south of the base.

Rich Olson, a Fort Stewart spokesman, said five people were injured on the base.

Federal 'Land' Judges on Slippery Slope

They Head for Resorts and Conservatives' All-Paid Property Seminars

By Ruth Marcus

Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — Federal judges are attending expenses-paid, five-day seminars on property rights and the environment at Montana resorts, sessions underwritten by conservative foundations that are funding a wave of litigation on those issues in federal courts.

Funding for the seminars, run by a group called the Foundation for Research on Economics and the Environment, or FREE, also comes from foundations run by companies with a significant interest in property rights and environmental law issues. Internal Revenue Service records show.

A 1996 letter to judges said the seminars "explore the role of property rights, incentives and voluntary cooperation in achieving environmental goals," and added: "Conference and travel expenses are paid and time is provided for cycling, fishing, golfing, hiking and horseback riding."

The seminars are held at the Gallatin Gateway Inn, a restored 1927 railroad hotel near Bozeman that has its own casting pond, and Elkhorn Ranch near Big Sky, described in its promotional material as a "traditional dude ranch" one mile from Yellowstone National Park, where "the comfortably rustic

guest cabins" are built from "hand-hewn native logs." Some judges bring spouses at their own expense and must pay for some of the activities, like golfing.

The chairman of FREE, John Baden, said he would not release a list of judges who have attended the meetings. "Some judges just don't want that known," he said. A 1996 FREE list obtained by The Washington Post named 109 judges who have attended, and a listing of the four 1997 programs said one-third of the 900-member federal judiciary has attended or asked to enroll. Four more sessions, with 17 judges each, are scheduled for 1998.

Mr. Baden said he started the judicial seminars in 1992 because most federal judges lack a grounding in economic and environmental issues. "Federal judges are some of America's most important environmental decision-makers," he said.

FREE says its seminars "are explicitly pro-environment," but also "explain why ecological values are not the only important values" and emphasize the "importance of secure property rights and the market process in the efficient and sensitive use of natural resources."

Major sources of FREE attendees are the U.S. Court of Appeals and the U.S. Court of Claims and the U.S. Administrative Office of the U.S.

Courts and FREE's list show that 10 of the 24 judges on those courts have attended the seminars since they began.

These courts hear most property rights cases against the federal government. In recent years, they have been the focus of intense efforts by conservative legal groups and businesses to secure a broader interpretation of the constitution's "takings" clause, which provides that government cannot take private property without "just compensation."

Property-rights advocates and business groups have been pushing the idea that the takings clause should apply to any regulation that diminishes the value of private property, such as rent control ordinances, zoning regulations and environmental rules.

In a 1996 case, Preseault v. United States, the Federal Circuit expanded takings law when it ruled that a Vermont couple was entitled to compensation when an old railroad right-of-way on their property was converted into a recreational trail under the 1983 Rail-to-Trails Act — even though the property was already at risk of being used as a trail when they bought it.

Four of the six judges who ruled against the government in Preseault reported on their financial disclosure forms that they had attended FREE seminars, along with one of the three judges who came down on the government's side. The John M. Olin Foundation, which gives money to FREE to support the judicial seminars, is also a financial backer of the New England Legal Foundation, which litigated the Preseault case. "I don't really see any conflict of interest there," said the executive director of the Olin Foundation, James Pierson.

Douglas Kendall of Community Rights Counsel, which helps local governments defend their activities against efforts by property rights advocates and provided information about the FREE seminars to The Post, called them "junkies for judges, sponsored by the same foundations that are bankrolling takings cases before the same judges."

Accord Created Panel to Judge Claims From The Holocaust

By Henry Weinstein

Los Angeles Times Service

LOS ANGELES — In a possible significant breakthrough, leaders of Jewish organizations, four European insurance companies and the California and New York insurance departments have agreed to establish an international commission to resolve claims lodged by Holocaust survivors and the families of people who were among the 6 million murdered in World War II.

The agreement is designed to resolve thousands of pending insurance claims expeditiously, according to the California insurance commissioner, Clive Quackenbush, and the New York insurance commissioner, Neil Levin.

"I am truly encouraged that we can begin to begin a process that unites U.S. and European regulators, insurance companies to meet the common goal of assuring swift resolution of this issue and payments to claimants," said Mr. Quackenbush, chairman of the National Association of Insurance Commissioners Holocaust Asset Recovery Subcommittee.

Mr. Levin said the agreement "provides the necessary framework to provide long overdue justice to Holocaust victims and their families."

Some of these people have been waiting to collect for over 50 years.

The four companies that signed the agreement are Assicurazioni Generali, Allianz of Germany, Axa of France and Zurich of Switzerland.

Israel Singer of the World Jewish Congress and Saul Kagan of the Conference on Material Claims Against Germany, both members of the Jewish Restitution Organization, signed the agreement. Neither was reachable for comment.

But Rabbi Abraham Cooper, associate dean of the Simon Wiesenthal Center, which also has been actively involved in the issue, said he was pleased with the agreement. He said the establishment of the commission, which he refers to as "an independent third party," is a crucial point in the development.

Still, he quickly added that there is a "long road" in securing the agreement of other relevant insurance companies, particularly those in Czechoslovakia, Hungary and Poland.

The development comes on the heels of a similar announcement last year calling for the creation of a commission to resolve Holocaust-related Swiss bank claims.

Correction

Because of an editing error, our article and caption on Thursday's front page misstated a comment about the impact of Taiwan. It was Prime Minister Vincent Siew being ping-pong, chairman of the Council on Economic Planning and Development. Who said that the falling might seriously harm Taiwan's economy.

Asia	South America	Europe	Africa	Oceania
Japan	Brazil	Germany	South Africa	Australia
China	Argentina	France	Nigeria	New Zealand
India	Colombia	Italy	Kenya	South Island
Indonesia	Venezuela	Spain	Uganda	North Island
Malaysia	Ecuador	UK	Rwanda	South Island
Philippines	Peru	Sweden	Tanzania	South Island
Singapore	Chile	Norway	Zambia	South Island
Thailand	Uruguay	Denmark	Botswana	South Island
Vietnam	Paraguay	Finland	Lesotho	South Island
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ASIA/PACIFIC

U.S. Drafting Plan to Arrest and Try Pol Pot With Thai Help

By Philip Shenon
and Eric Schmitt
New York Times Service

WASHINGTON — President Bill Clinton has ordered the Departments of Defense, State and Justice to devise plans for the arrest and trial of Pol Pot, the shadowy Khmer Rouge leader responsible for the death of perhaps a million Cambodians in the 1970s.

Clinton administration officials and Western diplomats said that the Khmer Rouge appeared to be near collapse as a result of mass defections and internal fighting. Mr. Pol Pot, who is now in his 70s and in poor health, and other Khmer Rouge leaders are said to be hiding in the Cambodian jungle only a few miles across the border with Thailand.

The Thai government, diplomats said, has suggested it would be willing to take Mr. Pol Pot into custody as long as the United States agreed to spirit him out of Thailand within hours of his capture.

Senior U.S. military officials said that intelligence reports from Southeast Asia

showed that the Thai military had actually taken Mr. Pol Pot into custody late last week but then freed him.

The Thai military, the officials said, may have feared that his capture would antagonize China, long an ally of the Khmer Rouge, and would complicate the foreign policy of Thailand's recently installed government, which is already struggling with an economic crisis.

Spokesmen at the Thai Embassy in Washington had no comment. Other American officials described the intelligence reports as sketchy and said it would be unfair to criticize the Thai military on the basis of such fragmentary evidence.

While administration officials cautioned that there was no guarantee that the ailing Khmer Rouge leader would be apprehended, they said that recent developments along the border were so significant that Mr. Clinton issued a written order Monday to organize logistics for Mr. Pol Pot's capture and trial.

Under one plan being discussed within the administration, an American military

plane would take Mr. Pol Pot from Thailand to a third country, possibly the Netherlands, where international tribunals are prosecuting war crimes carried out in Rwanda and the former Yugoslavia.

A military official said the Pentagon had drawn up a list of interim sites where Mr. Pol Pot might be held until a location for the trial was selected. These include the Northern Marianas Islands and Wake Island — both U.S. territories in the Pacific — or the U.S. naval base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

"We've had many false alarms before with the Khmer Rouge, but this may be our best chance to get Pol Pot," said a Clinton administration official who is involved in the planning. "We're not going to be caught unprepared if he's made available to us."

Another American official said that "if we don't get Pol Pot this time, he may die before we ever have the chance to bring him to justice."

The official said that despite the reports of Mr. Pol Pot's capture and release by Thai soldiers last week, the civilian-

led Thai government "is being cooperative — and their cooperation will be essential if we're to pull this off."

Under Mr. Clinton's order, officials said, the State Department has been directed to oversee negotiations with Thailand, the Netherlands and other countries that might be involved in the apprehension and trial. The Justice Department has been asked to review the legal authority that would be needed under international law for the United States to become involved in the detention of Mr. Pol Pot. Western diplomats said that prosecutors at the international tribunals in The Hague had already tentatively agreed to organize a trial for Mr. Pol Pot for crimes against humanity, as long as the UN Security Council empowers them to oversee the prosecution.

The diplomats said the United States, France and other countries had already begun drafting a Security Council resolution to deal with such a trial.

From 1975 to 1979, Mr. Pol Pot turned Cambodia into a vast labor camp. Millions of Cambodians, especially city-

dwellers, were driven from their homes and forced to work in the fields under primitive conditions. Mr. Pol Pot labeled anyone with money or education an enemy of the revolution, and much of the middle class was killed during his four-year reign of terror or starved to death.

The Khmer Rouge was toppled by a Vietnamese invasion in 1979. It resumed its guerrilla struggle in the jungle, where its fighters have remained for two decades.

The movement began to fall apart last year, when the followers of Mr. Pol Pot turned against him, apparently over his decision to order the assassination of the Khmer Rouge defense chief, Son Sen, and 14 relatives, including his grandchildren.

After the killings, Mr. Pol Pot's former comrades tried him and sentenced him to house arrest. He is reported to be under the control of his former top military commander, Ta Mok.

In interviews last year with an American reporter who observed portions of the trial, Mr. Pol Pot said that "My conscience is clear."

Cambodia Hails Plans for Trial

Reuters

PHNOM PENH — Cambodia would welcome efforts by the United States and Thailand to bring the Khmer Rouge leader Pol Pot to trial in an international court, a government spokesman said on Thursday.

"It's a bit late but we welcome this move," said the secretary of state for information, Khieu Kanharith. "We've been waiting nearly 20 years for Pol Pot."

Mr. Khieu Kanharith said the government wanted to see Mr. Pol Pot face trial outside Cambodia and would welcome Thailand's help.

"We think an international trial would be better," he said. "With all this political passion, everyone would try to politicize the Pol Pot case."

U.S. Envoy Will Deliver Strict Warning to Kabul

By Thomas W. Lippman
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — The U.S. chief delegate to the United Nations, Bill Richardson, will travel to Afghanistan as part of a five-nation tour of South Asia that begins Friday to deliver a stern message to the Taliban militia that it will never gain wide international recognition or aid so long as its repression of women continues, senior administration officials say.

Mr. Richardson will be the highest-ranking U.S. official to visit Kabul since a 1978 pro-Communist coup there plunged Afghanistan into 20 years of war, which shows no sign of ending.

A senior State Department official said that Mr. Richardson would be speaking not just for the United States but for all the members of the "six plus two" group of countries pressing for an end to the Afghan conflict. The two are the United States and Russia. The six are Afghanistan's neighbors, including Iran, which makes Afghanistan one of the few issues on which Washington and Tehran are cooperating diplomatically.

Mr. Richardson also will visit India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh, the official said, in anticipation of a South Asia trip by President Bill Clinton ex-

pected to take place later this year.

Mr. Richardson will be accompanied by Karl Inderfurth, assistant secretary of state for South Asian affairs, and Bruce Riedel, senior director for the Middle East and South Asia on the National Security Council staff.

The administration's record in trying to resolve the area's problems and conflicts is spotty at best. A denuclearization initiative presented to India and Pakistan by Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott failed, and a visit to the key countries by Secretary of State Madeleine Albright was cut short by the crisis with Iraq. But a senior official said Mr. Clinton was "committed to greater engagement."

The Taliban, which controls about two-thirds of Afghanistan, has attracted notoriety for its brand of conservative Islam, in which women are largely prohibited from working and girls are denied education.

Neither the Taliban nor the rival militias that control the northern part of the country have shown much inclination to seek a negotiated solution, a senior State Department official said. But Mr. Richardson will argue to both groups that they cannot prevail militarily. "Enough is enough," the official said.

He said that Mr. Richardson would make clear to the Taliban that its be-



BALANCING ACT — A soldier helping up his daughter Thursday on a visit to Tiananmen Square in Beijing.

havior and failure to respond to the international community were unacceptable and that it "will never receive recognition from the United States until a broad-based government is established in Kabul."

In addition, the official said, Mr. Richardson will tell the Afghan factions

that aid will be limited and that economic opportunities, such as a proposed natural gas pipeline across Afghanistan to Pakistan, will not be forthcoming until the country is stabilized.

Iran is eager to see a settlement of the Afghan conflict because it has more than 1.4 million Afghan refugees, ac-

cording to diplomatic analysts. Pakistan harbors 1.2 million Afghan refugees.

In India and Pakistan, a senior official said, the Richardson delegation will urge restraint in their arms race, aggravated recently when Pakistan tested a missile that could reach much of India.

Senate Defends Land Rights For Aborigines

The Associated Press

CANBERRA — The Senate rallied to defend Aboriginal land rights Thursday, gutting the conservative government's legislation that would have limited their land claims.

For the second time since December, the Senate refused to go along with a bill that would have severely limited Aborigines' ability to stake land claims on the vast tracts of Australia that the government leases to ranchers, farmers and miners.

Its amendments and their rejection later Thursday by the House of Representatives means Prime Minister John Howard could call an early parliamentary election to try to resolve the impasse.

Although the Senate approved the law, it made it subject to the Racial Discrimination Act, which bans laws aimed at any particular race. A court challenge would almost certainly find the new law invalid. There are 386,000 Aborigines in the country's mostly white population of more than 18 million.

The Senate also preserved the legal right of Aborigines to negotiate with mining companies that want to establish new projects on ranch land.

Mr. Howard argues that this right unduly delays mining developments that are critical to the Australian economy. The final vote on the bill was 58 to 59.

Herald Tribune

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Communists Are 'Defeating the West'

Wei Jingsheng, China's most prominent human rights campaigner, was sent into exile in the United States after President Jiang Zemin's state visit to Washington in November. Mr. Wei arrived in Geneva this week to address the annual session of the UN Commission on Human Rights, and he discussed the rights issue with Robert Kroon for the International Herald Tribune.

Q. For the first time since the Tiananmen massacre of 1989, the U.S. and the European Union will not press for a resolution against China in the Human Rights Commission, on the ground that Beijing has signed several human rights conventions and that quiet diplomacy may be more effective than coercive resolutions. Do you think this is the right approach?

A. No. If anything, the situation is getting worse and will deteriorate even further if outside pressure on the Chinese Communists is lifted. Western powers are wrong in saying there are other means than critical resolutions to get the regime to mend its ways.

They don't see that the Communist Party leaders may sign conventions, but have no intention of applying the rules. Western statements in the Human Rights Commission have been very weak this year. They seem to be scared of Beijing. The Chinese leaders are extremely smart. For the first time in 80 years of world communism, a Communist Party is defeating the West.

Q. The Chinese delegate at the commission, Wu Jianmin, has dismissed your appearance here, saying you are

Q & A / Wei Jingsheng

just one of a handful of dissidents who have no impact on the opinion of 1.2 billion Chinese people. Are you fighting a losing battle?

A. If the party thinks I am so insignificant, why did they keep me in jail for 18 years? The Chinese people know me and respect me and that even goes for some of my prison guards, who became good friends.

Q. It is a widely held view that the lure of lucrative business deals is overriding human rights considerations in the West's current attitude toward China. Do you agree?

A. Certainly. Karl Marx was not entirely wrong in saying that Western democracies are fake democracies that are driven by economic forces. Even in the United States, the government speaks for the business community.

Deng Xiaoping did one good thing when he relaxed the party's stranglehold on the economy. But in creating a new capitalist lobby he cleared the way for widespread corruption and other bad things. He never resolved the conflict between the party and the people. If you read Deng's writings it is clear that he was dead set against any political reforms.

Q. The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Mary Robinson, has been invited for an official visit to China. Isn't that a sign that Beijing is

trying to meet the international community's concerns about China's rights record?

A. I had a good meeting with Mrs. Robinson in Geneva, but I have my doubts about what she can accomplish in China, especially if she is swept up in this general Western retreat. But if she really worries about the people's rights and is not afraid to speak up and offend the party leaders, that would be the right approach.

Q. What are your views on the Taiwan problem?

A. That is a very complex issue. Taiwan is intimately linked with Chinese politics. Some Taiwanese politicians are charting a wrong course by militating for independence from China. Their actions may give Beijing an excuse for military intervention, especially now that the West is letting down its guard.

Q. After having been silenced for so many years, how do you feel about freedom of expression in the West, notably in the United States, where President Clinton's private life is getting so much critical media attention?

A. I think there are ulterior motives at work, when so much focus is put on something totally irrelevant. But perhaps President Clinton can thank his girlfriends for helping him to deflect attention from his foreign policy mistakes, especially on China.

BRIEFLY

UN Urges Food Aid for Jakarta

ROME — Indonesia will face a record food deficit this year as a result of lower harvests and a financial crisis that has raised the cost of imports, two United Nations food agencies said Thursday.

In a joint report, the Food and Agriculture Organization and the World Food Program said large-scale international assistance would be needed to meet a shortfall in rice, the country's main staple food.

Steep food price increases and rapidly growing unemployment were adding large numbers of people to those already living below the poverty line, the report by the two Rome-based organizations said.

The report was based on findings of an 11-member mission from the two agencies which visited the country from March 9 to April 1.

Cambodia About-Face on Rally

PHNOM PENH — The Interior Ministry withdrew permission Thursday for a demonstration calling for Cambodia's royal family to be barred from politics.

"Any demonstration will be illegal," said an Interior Ministry spokesman, Khieu Sopheak.

The demonstration had been planned for Friday, a day ahead of the return of King Norodom Sihanouk from

medical treatment in China, and was clearly aimed at his son, Prince Norodom Ranariddh, who was deposed as co-prime minister in a coup last year. It is unclear why the approval was withdrawn. (AP)

Child-Labor March in India

NEW DELHI — Children who once worked in sweatshops from Cambodia to Nepal were welcomed by hundreds of other children in the Indian capital Thursday on a march through Asia to muster public opinion against child labor.

Riding in turns on three elephants, 37 former child laborers from different Asian countries led a procession through busy traffic to converge near New Delhi's central business district.

India has the world's largest number of working children. Estimates vary from 50 million to 100 million. Worldwide, there are as many as 250 million workers aged 5 to 14, campaigners say. (AP)

For the Record

Candidates for Hong Kong's first elected legislature under Chinese rule began registering Thursday. Candidates have until April 24 to submit their names to the government for the May 24 election to the 60-seat body. (AP)

EUROPE

Russians Take to the Streets (but Who's to Blame?)

By Daniel Williams
Herald Tribune Staff Writer

MOSCOW — Thousands of Russians demonstrated Thursday to protest unemployment, delays in wage payments and the government's general economic policy. But since there is no government, it was for the demonstrators to know whom to blame for what.

It has been two and a half weeks since President Boris Yeltsin dismissed Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin and his cabinet. He soon nominated a replacement, Sergei Kiriyenko, a young former oil company manager and energy minister, but Parliament has balked at confirming him.

So the protest marches, planned long before the government crisis, were firing verbal bullets at a moving target. "First, we have no pay; now we don't even have leaders to blame," said Olga Borisova, a nurse from Tver. "They leave us with nothing."



Mr. Yeltsin conferring with acting Prime Minister Kiriyenko about Friday's confirmation vote in the Duma.

The demonstrations followed the pale spring sun across Russia. They began in Vladivostok in the Far East, eight time zones away, and continued through Siberia into Western Russia as the day progressed. Organizers had hoped for a turnout of up to 20 million, but provincial reports said that many workers ignored the call for a daylong strike and that participation was in the hundreds of thousands. Coal mines in Siberia's Kuzbass region, where wages to state workers are routinely delayed, were open for digging.

Unlike the last two years, when similar protests took place, this one was missing a central villain, played by Anatoli Chubais. Mr. Chubais was once finance minister as well as Mr. Yeltsin's chief economic adviser and no demonstration was complete without posters calling on him to step down. This time, he was already ousted in the March purge.

Marchers carried the red banner of the Communist Party, different-hued flags of other parties and trade unions. In Moscow, Communist chanters blended calls for jobs with demands for the restoration of the Soviet Union. There was an occasional banner demanding Mr. Yeltsin's resignation.

The government's shake-up seemed to take passion out of the protests. Even organizers were inclined to give Mr. Kiriyenko a chance. "Kiriyenko has given us hope," said Alexei Surikov, an official from the Federation of Independent Trade Unions. "He is prepared to find a way to pay off wages."

Mr. Kiriyenko met with organizers, expressed sympathy for their plight and promised to pay back wages. On Friday, after a week's delay, the lower house of Parliament, the Duma, is scheduled to take a vote on his nomination. Almost no one is betting he will be confirmed. "I give it 10 percent," said Sergei Markov, a political analyst.

The majority in the Duma, including the Communist, Agrarian and liberal Yabloko parties, all oppose the nomination. The Communists and the Agrarians are demanding seats in the cabinet and money for pet projects. Yabloko wants key economic posts to carry out economic reform. Only the blustery but compliant Liberal Democratic party, headed by the extreme nationalist Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, has come out in support of Mr. Kiriyenko. Mr. Zhirinovskiy said he was expecting a cabinet seat for one of the members of his party in return.

"It's not because deputies don't like Kiriyenko's candidacy," said Alexander Kotenkov, Mr. Yeltsin's parliamentary liaison official. "It's simply that political trading will take place."

If the Duma rejects Mr. Kiriyenko on Friday, Mr. Yeltsin can renominate him twice more. If the Duma keeps rejecting Mr. Kiriyenko, the president can call parliamentary elections.

The delay has paralyzed Russia's never-very-nimble bureaucracy. Trying to get business done is virtually impossible, Russian officials say. At least momentarily, the confirmation delay aggravates late payments of pensions and government wages.

Anatoli Lisitsyn, governor of the Yaroslavl region, was in Moscow on Thursday trying to get the Finance Ministry to transfer \$2 million in March payroll due state workers and checks for pensioners in his province. He went away empty-handed.

Russia, in a Huff, Cuts Oil Exports Via Latvia

MOSCOW — Russia announced Thursday that it was cutting oil exports through Latvia as a result of its anger over treatment of its Russian-speaking minority, but said there were no plans for wider sanctions against the former Soviet Baltic state.

Andrei Pershin, spokesman for acting First Deputy Prime Minister Boris Nemtsov, said oil exports through Latvia's Ventspils export terminal

would be cut by about 15 percent in the second quarter of this year.

"The order came from the president," he said. "In Latvia they are violating the rights of the Russian-speaking population."

"Official representatives are not using the term economic sanctions," said the Foreign Ministry spokesman, Valeri Nesterushkin. "We are talking about a possible restructuring of our trade and economic contacts."

Russia wants Latvia to modify citizenship law that have left the Russian-speaking minority, more than a quarter of the Baltic state's population, effectively stateless.

Mr. Nesterushkin said that Russia considered the economic pressure as a political signal. "It's up to Riga to realize to what extent this signal is understood in Riga, and to what extent it should be taken into account," he said.

Political Split Paralyzes Paris City Hall

PARIS — Paris City Hall, the capital's biggest employer, was in paralysis Thursday as a weeklong battle raged among rightists to unseat the corruption-tainted mayor, Jean Tiberi.

As the rightist coalition in charge of France's premier city government for 20 years flew apart in the struggle for power, Socialist councilors leaped in to demand the dissolution of the municipal board to pave the way for a snap election.

"Universal suffrage is the only realistic solution possible to the unprecedented crisis striking at the heart of the city's institutions," said Senator Bernard Delanoë, who heads the Socialist group on the city council.

A dissolution would have to be signed by President Jacques Chirac, who handed the mayorship to Mr. Tiberi after winning office in 1995.

It was during his 18-year term at the helm of City Hall, a giant enterprise that employs 40,000 people and has a budget of \$5 billion francs (almost \$6 billion), that Mr. Chirac bolstered his neo-

Gaullist Rally for the Republic and won the popularity that propelled him into the presidency.

But it was one of his most faithful aides, former Justice Minister Jacques Toubon, who launched a "palace coup" against Mr. Tiberi on Monday by drawing a third of his supporters into a new conservative group to be called PARIS, an acronym for Paris, Audacity, Renewal, Initiative, Solidarity.

"I am the mayor and will remain so," Mr. Tiberi, 62, retorted. "I'll personally see to it that Monsieur Toubon never becomes mayor of Paris."

Neither of the two groups now has a working majority, leaving the Socialists as the biggest group on the city council. Mr. Tiberi is proposing new talks for a "reconciliation" after Easter. In the meantime, business has ground to a halt.

On the basis of last month's regional elections, if a snap poll were held today, the right would lose control of the city by losing four more districts to the left. Mr. Tiberi's three-year-term is blamed

by many of his allies for the fall in popularity.

No sooner had he donned the mantle of mayor than he was embarrassed by revelations that his children lived in city-owned housing while collecting rent on personal apartments. He was later named in an investigation into a slush fund involving the RPR and City Hall.

Swiss Hold German Official Over Scientology Surveillance

ZURICH — Authorities have detained a German official on suspicion of spying on the Church of Scientology in Switzerland, the federal prosecutor's office said Thursday.

As details of the incident became public, a German state official apologized for an "unintentional violation" of Swiss sovereignty.

The German official, an employee of the Baden-Wuerttemberg Office for the Protection of the Constitution, was trying to persuade a Swiss Socialist politi-

cian to collect information on the group, a spokesman for the Swiss Federal Prosecutor's Office said.

He was arrested Monday as he left a restaurant in Basel, where he had met with the politician and a woman from Zurich. None of the people involved have been publicly identified.

The Swiss politician, who was released after questioning, said she had warned the German official that he was breaking the law, according to the spokesman. She had been in contact with the police before the meeting.

The Baden-Wuerttemberg state Interior Ministry in Stuttgart said the official had "clearly exceeded his authority."

The Constitutional Protection Office's regional president has apologized in writing to Urs von Däniken, the chief of the Swiss federal police, it added.

It was unclear why the meeting took place in Basel rather than in Germany, the statement added. Links between Scientology missions in Freiburg, Germany, and nearby Basel were being investigated, it said.

Last June, German officials put Scientology under surveillance by the Constitutional Protection Office, a domestic security agency best known for tracking political extremists, alleging that the group's beliefs and aims were anti-democratic. The German government also contends that Scientology is a for-profit organization that aims to bilk its members.

The German official is suspected of breaking Swiss law by carrying out "illegal business for a foreign state," working for a political information service and falsifying identification documents, according to the Swiss prosecutor's office. A judge in Bern ordered him held Tuesday.

The woman from Zurich, who is believed to have been in contact with the German department for several months, is also under investigation, the office's spokesman said, and her house was searched Tuesday, but she has not been detained. The Scientologists, who claim 8 million members worldwide, have mounted an advertising campaign denouncing Germany for alleged discrimination against its 30,000 members, such as by barring them from public jobs.

BRIEFLY

Bonn Sister Parties Unite on Platform

BONN — Chancellor Helmut Kohl and an allied Bavarian party declared a truce Thursday in a quarrel over energy taxes that was becoming a major election-year embarrassment.

Mr. Kohl's Christian Democratic Union (CDU) made the announcement only hours after fresh sniping by the Bavaria-based Christian Social Union (CSU) against a proposed platform plank calling for a European tax on nonrenewable energy.

"CDU and CSU are in absolute agreement about the drafting of a common campaign platform," the statement said. "Talks will start immediately after the Easter holidays."

The CSU's general secretary, Bernd Protzner, earlier Thursday lashed out at criticism by Wolfgang Schauble, the chief drafter of the Christian Democrats' platform and the party's parliamentary leader. Mr. Schauble had said that "foolish criticism" of his energy-tax idea was hurting the ruling coalition's re-election chances.

Mr. Protzner said Mr. Schauble was going too far to try to sway ecologically minded voters. He said the two sister parties must unite behind a platform "that clearly distinguishes them from the lunatic and utopian ideas" he said were being promoted by the opposition Social Democrats and Greens.

Greek Leftist Group Claims Bank Attack

ATHENS — Greece's deadliest terrorist group took responsibility Thursday for a spate of attacks against American targets, including an anti-tank rocket blast at a Citibank branch on Wednesday.

November 17, whose 21 victims since 1975 include the CIA station chief and three other Americans, said the campaign was "aimed against American imperialism-nationalism."

The wave of attacks has coincided with the high-profile activities of the new American ambassador in Athens, Nicholas Burns, who has spoken out about the need for Greece to crack down on terrorism.

Someone might disagree with this form of struggle, might consider it terrorism, might doubt its effectiveness, but he can't deny the fact of this struggle," said a statement from the leftist group published in the daily newspaper Eleftherotipia.

Kocharyan Becomes Armenian President

YEREVAN, Armenia — Robert Kocharyan, a liberal on reforms but tough in his country's dispute with Azerbaijan, was sworn in Thursday as Armenia's president and vowed to revive the shattered economy.

Mr. Kocharyan, 43, who had been the prime minister, took office 10 days after winning a runoff election against Karen Demirciryan, Armenia's Soviet-era Communist leader.

"I swear to guarantee the independence, territorial integrity and security of my country," he said, swearing on the Bible and the country's constitution before being blessed by the head of the Armenian Apostolic Church, Garegin I.

Mr. Kocharyan, who won praise from the West for fighting corruption and backing radical economic reforms during a year as prime minister, promised to revive the economy, which has suffered from the breakup of the Soviet Union and the simmering dispute with Azerbaijan over Nagorno-Karabakh.

French Airbus Pilot Gets Stiffer Sentence

COLMAR, France — A French appeals court stiffened a sentence on Thursday against a former Air France pilot over the crash of an Airbus A320 in 1988, showing, jailing him for 10 months with an additional 10 months suspended.

The court in the eastern town of Colmar found Michel Asseline guilty of manslaughter and causing bodily harm. Three of the 130 people on board died in the crash as the A320 operated by Air France plowed into a forest and burst into flames after a low pass over an airfield at Habsheim near the eastern city of Mulhouse.

The verdict confirmed a lower court ruling blaming the accident on human error and vindicating Airbus Industrie, the plane's maker. Mr. Asseline had been sentenced to six months in jail with an additional 12 months suspended in the lower court. Mr. Asseline has blamed the cock-

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INTERNATIONAL

An Ornithologist's Dream: Birds Can Help the Middle East Nest

By Doug Struck
Washington Post Service

LATRAN, Israel — The graceful storks sense the wind and tip their wings to spiral in a subtle swirl of air. Up, up, slowly to 3,000 feet. With but a flick of a wingtip, they exit the updraft like a ballerina spun away from her partner and glide northward toward Europe.

"Look, there!" exclaimed Yossi Leshem, at 50 as excited as a child. "There is another group. And behind them another."

The specks in the distance form an aerial march. As far as one can see from this hilltop in central Israel, storks are gliding and rising, using thermals to catapult their slow migration across thousands of miles. And they all cross here.

Israel is the central bus station for bird migration. Incredibly, 500 million birds pass through or over this narrow country — storks and eagles and pelicans shuttling twice a year between Europe and Asia or Africa; songbirds wintering in the milder climate here or

moving farther south.

"Israel is at the intersection of three continents," Mr. Leshem said. "For politics, it's a disaster. But for bird-watching, it's a Garden of Eden."

Mr. Leshem, an ornithologist, hopes to use this pivotal location to advance goodwill in the Middle East, as well as to learn more about the 530 species of birds known to pass through here. He is setting up a program that will link Israeli, Palestinian and Jordanian students through the Internet in an effort to track and observe the migrating birds.

"The governments are stuck, but we are dealing with people," Mr. Leshem said. "Kids will start to talk through the computer about the birds, and then they go out together in the field, and pretty soon we will see how nice they are, and they will see how nice we are."

To emphasize his point, Mr. Leshem named the project "Birds-Know No Boundaries," and he has won a \$1 million grant from the U.S. Agency for International Development to promote the endeavor.

In the Palestinian village of Beit Jalla, Imad Atarah shares Mr. Leshem's enthusiasm for the good-neighborly potential of bird-watching. In a bare schoolroom, the teacher is setting up what he calls the "first environmental center in Palestine."

He plans to expand the collection of several hundred stuffed birds collected by British birders around 1910. He is planning field-trip exchange programs and environmental summer camps with Israeli schools, a bird-banding program to mirror an Israeli one in Jerusalem, and he is readying his classroom for a dozen computers to be purchased through the U.S. grant.

The computers will be used to track the location of 65 migrating storks, 30 eagles and several pelicans captured in Europe and Israel and fitted with tiny solar-powered transmitters. The position of the storks is relayed by satellite every 90 minutes.

In Mr. Atarah's program, Mr. Leshem sees a mirror of the first bird-watching club in Jerusalem, which he

started 17 years ago. He eventually became head of the Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel, got his doctorate in zoology and now teaches at Tel Aviv University.

He has put his zeal for birding to practical use. Israel's narrow airspace is crowded with birds during peak migration seasons, and a big bird struck by a high-speed jet or ingested into its engine can have fatal results. The Israeli Air Force lost seven planes in 10 years that way.

In 1983, Mr. Leshem was called after a fighter jet was "downed" by a migrating honey buzzard. The pilot, struck unconscious as the bird smashed through his window, was saved, legend has it, when the feathery corpse triggered his seat-ejection lever. Mr. Leshem proposed to the skeptical military what seemed like a simple idea: Find out where the birds are and don't fly there.

To do the first, he posted volunteer bird-watchers every mile along a 40-mile (64-kilometer) line stretching across the country to count and track the

birds. He launched an unmanned air drone to videotape the birds. He climbed into a motorized light aircraft and spent 1,400 hours flying with the storks, wheeling and dodging with the big birds to try to understand their flight patterns.

And he enlisted a former Soviet general who had immigrated to Israel and who used to oversee a line of 45 weather radar sites. The general, Leonid Dinevitch, returned to cash-strapped Russia five years ago and picked up a \$1.5 million weather radar station for \$20,000. Mr. Dinevitch now sits in a darkened radar hut on top of the Latrun hilltop, picking out among the green blips the miles-long lines of migrating storks.

Mr. Leshem says the effort has cut the number of bird-plane collisions by 83 percent since 1984. But it has not been a total success; behind his radar hut, a couple of big barrels hold all that remains of an F-15 fighter jet that was brought down by birds in 1995.

"I think we've made the pilots a lot more aware that we share the air," Mr. Leshem said.

BRIEFLY

Hamas Aide Arrested In Palestinian Split

GAZA CITY — The Gaza leader of the militant group Hamas was detained Thursday by the Palestinian police hours after the group issued a leaflet calling for the resignation of several officials in Yasser Arafat's Palestinian Authority.

The arrest was a signal of growing tensions between the authority and Hamas after the death last month of a chief Hamas bomb-maker.

The Palestinian police chief, Ghazi Jibali, said that Abdel Aziz Rantisi of Hamas was being held.

A leaflet issued by Hamas on Thursday accused the authority of collaborating with Israel in Muhyiddin Sharif's death and called for the resignation of several Palestinian leaders including the West Bank security chief, Jibril Rajoub.

An investigation by the Palestinian Authority of the March 29 death found that Mr. Sharif had not been killed by the Israelis but was a victim of a power struggle in Hamas. (AP)

Nigeria Adds a Court

LAGOS — Nigeria's military government has established a Constitutional Court as part of its phased program to hand over power to a civilian government in October, the Justice Ministry announced Thursday.

The court will arbitrate electoral disputes and interpret and enforce a new constitution, the ministry said.

It added that a decree establishing the court was signed into law last month by Nigeria's military leader, General Sani Abacha.

He has pledged to hand over power to a civilian government on Oct. 1 after a civilian president is elected in a vote set for Aug. 1.

According to the decree, the head of state will appoint judges to the Constitutional Court on recommendations made by the Advisory Judicial Committee.

Until they are appointed, the Court of Appeal will exercise the jurisdiction and

powers of the Constitutional Court, the decree says. (AFP)

Mexican Police Raid

SAN CRISTOBAL DE LAS CASAS, Mexico — About 1,500 heavily armed soldiers and policemen carried out a raid in a neighborhood in southern Chiapas state in a search for guns and kidnapping suspects.

Three men were arrested on outstanding warrants for weapons trafficking and kidnapping during the raid Wednesday on the Hormiga neighborhood in San Cristobal.

San Cristobal's mayor, Rolando Villafuerte, said the purpose of the raid was to "cut off the harmful trade in weapons" that reportedly operates in the neighborhood.

But Miguel Angel Yanez, assistant prosecutor for the region, said that only two pistols had been seized. (AP)

Bolivian Deadlock

LA PAZ, Bolivia — Unions have broken off negotiations to end a general strike in which seven people have died.

The unions said government negotiators had refused to accept the presence of Evo Morales, leader of Bolivia's peasant coca leaf growers, at the negotiating table. (Reuters)

Death Threat on French Justice Minister

AIACCIO, Corsica — The French justice minister and the government representative in Corsica, whose predecessor was shot and killed two months ago, have received death threats from suspected separatists, a prominent French newspaper reported Thursday.

The daily Le Monde said that the prefect, Bernard Bonnet, had received a letter on April 2 saying he would suffer the fate of his predecessor, Claude Erignac, who was killed as he walked to a concert in the capital, Ajaccio.

Mr. Bonnet "already knows what weapon will kill him," the daily quoted the letter as saying. It said the letter had

Iran Leader Intervenes in Mayor's Case

The Associated Press

TEHRAN — Iran's supreme leader stepped in to quell a growing power struggle among clerical rulers over the arrest of Tehran's mayor that threatened to spill into the streets on Thursday.

The arrest Saturday of Mayor Gholam-Hossein Karbaschi, 44, in an embezzlement case that supporters had blamed on political opponents highlighted the feuding between moderates and hard-liners over the course of the country's nearly 20 years after the Islamic revolution.

The rare public show of disunity apparently prompted Ayatollah Sayed Ali Khamenei to act, underlining the urgency of the situation.

He summoned the heads of the government's branches Wednesday night to "exchange views on the issue of the mayor of Tehran," the official Islamic Republic News Agency said Thursday.

The government leaders included President Mohammed Khatami, former President Hashemi Rafsanjani, head of the powerful Expediency Council that sets government policy, Ali Akbar Nateq-Nouri, the speaker of Parliament, and Ayatollah Mohammed Yazdi, the chief justice.

Mr. Khatami and Mr. Rafsanjani are moderates. Mr. Nateq-Nouri, who was defeated by Mr. Khatami in a presidential election in May, and Ayatollah Yazdi follow hard-line policies.

Ayatollah Khamenei, also considered a hard-liner, seemed to be trying to arbitrate the dispute.

In a statement issued by his office and carried by the news agency, Ayatollah Khamenei instructed the president and chief justice to "coordinate fully" on the matter and "to fully observe laws of the nation and justice."

He demanded the two sides report to him on developments relating to the case against the mayor.

The meeting followed a public and heated confrontation over Mr. Karbaschi's arrest, which posed Mr. Khatami with the most serious challenge since he took office in August.

As political tension escalated, Mr. Karbaschi spent his fourth night in Tehran's Evin prison.

World Court Seeks to Bar U.S. Execution

The Associated Press

THE HAGUE — Intervening in a death penalty case for the first time, the World Court demanded a stay on Thursday in the scheduled execution next week of a Paraguayan man in Virginia.

It was unclear what effect, if any, the ruling would have in Virginia, which condemned Angel Francisco Breard, 30, for the murder and attempted rape of a woman in Arlington in 1992.

The World Court, the United Nations' highest judicial body, has no enforcement powers and relies on countries to comply voluntarily with its decisions. Its final decision could take years, though the 15-judge court promised to speed up its deliberations.

"The court orders the United States to take all measures at its disposal to ensure that Angel Francisco Breard is not executed pending the final decision of the court," the judges said in a unanimous decision.

The court noted that its decision did not "concern the entitlement of the federal states within the United States to resort to the death penalty for the most heinous crimes."

Paraguay had fought for the stay of execution, contending that Mr. Breard was not informed of his right to consular assistance after his arrest, as required by the 1963 Vienna Convention.

Paraguay has said that if Mr. Breard had been able to seek advice from consular officials, he likely would have pleaded guilty in a pretrial plea bargain and escaped the death penalty.

U.S. lawyers, however, claim Mr. Breard was never offered a plea bargain. The United States also says that it has no dispute with Paraguay over the Vienna Convention and that the World Court therefore has no jurisdiction in the case.

Governor Jim Gilmore of Virginia has said he will follow U.S. court decisions. Mr. Breard has a clemency appeal pending before the Supreme Court.



Israeli guards leading two Hamas militants on Thursday. In an unprecedented step, a military court charged the two with being responsible for the deaths of five suicide bombers as well as their 21 Israeli victims.

Moi Urges Separation of Tutsi and Hutu

Agence France-Presse

NAIROBI — President Daniel arap Moi of Kenya suggested Thursday that the Tutsi of Rwanda and Burundi should live in one country and the Hutu in another, the official Kenya News Agency reported.

He linked the suggestion to a warning that tribalism could destroy Africa, the agency said.

Mr. Moi's proposal brought into the open an idea that has long been discussed behind closed doors, but rejected because of the implications it would have for other African countries where boundaries run through tribal groupings, analysts said.

In Rwanda, Hutu extremists slaughtered up to a million Tutsi and moderate Hutu in the genocidal civil war in 1994 — a continuation of previous ethnic conflict — and Hutu guerrillas are clashing with the new Tutsi-dominated army in several areas.

In neighboring Burundi, where the regime and the army are also dominated by the minority Tutsi, a civil war which exploded in late 1993 has left an estimated 200,000 dead.

"President Moi said that unless Africans were careful, tribalism will destroy the continent completely," the news agency said.

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EDITORIALS/OPINION

Herald INTERNATIONAL Tribune

Iranian Infighting

Indirection is an art form in Iranian politics, and it is now being used by clerical ideologues to undermine President Mohammad Khatami.

The detention and interrogation of Tehran's mayor, Gholam-Hossein Karbaschi, is their way of attacking Mr. Khatami and his effort to ease repression at home and to improve relations with America. The campaign reflects the broader struggle between a people weary of rigid Islamic fundamentalism and a clerical leadership unwilling to yield power.

Mr. Karbaschi, who has been mayor since 1989, is a political force in his own right whose support helped Mr. Khatami win last year's presidential election. Judicial investigators accountable to Mr. Khatami's chief rival, Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei, are now prosecuting Mr. Karbaschi on charges of municipal corruption. Since his arrest last Saturday he has been subjected to lengthy and grueling interrogation.

Whatever the merits of the allegations, the timing of his arrest is directly related to the power struggle between Mr. Khatami and Ayatollah Khamenei, Iran's supreme spiritual leader. Mr.

Khatami, who continues to enjoy strong popular support, has been expanding the boundaries of presidential authority, and the religious leadership under Ayatollah Khamenei has begun pushing back.

Mr. Khatami's favored candidate in the presidential election because he represents the desire of most Iranians for relief from clerical meddling in daily life. He has also brought a more pragmatic approach to Iranian foreign policy, replacing ritual demonization of the United States with efforts to build new, nongovernmental links.

This conciliatory line makes sense for Iran right now. With oil prices depressed, Tehran needs to attract outside investment, which it could obtain on better terms if Washington could be induced to drop its hostility and sanctions.

But for many militant clerics, majority sentiment, pragmatism and national interest are beside the point. They despise America and feel threatened by Mr. Khatami's policies and popularity. Fearing to attack him directly, they are striking at his allies.

—THE NEW YORK TIMES.

Making Jets Safer

The National Transportation Safety Board's recommendations for minimizing the risk of a fuel tank explosion similar to the TWA Flight 800 tragedy would expand the depth and reach of corrective measures undertaken by Boeing and the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration. For the first time the safety board has asked the FAA to require the inspection of wiring, the replacement of damaged wiring and related equipment changes in thousands of aircraft built by Boeing and other manufacturers, not just the older Boeing 747s.

The board's recommendations are purely advisory. But its underlying message was unmistakable: Boeing's non-binding "service bulletins" to airline operators that fly Boeing jets did not provide sufficient technical guidance to locate wiring damage similar to the kind found during the Flight 800 accident inquiry, and should be supplanted with mandatory FAA directives.

Though the cause of the Flight 800 explosion, which took 230 lives in July

1996, has not been pinpointed, these and other recommendations of the board seem reasonable. Among them are requirements to separate high-voltage from low-voltage wires and to install surge protectors. All are aimed at reducing the chance that an errant electrical spark could ignite the center fuel tank. Last year the board also sensibly recommended a reduction in the inflammability of fuel vapors.

Both Boeing and the FAA note correctly that they have been working on or contemplating many of these steps. Even so, the board's recommendations should sharpen the necessary decision-making and, if translated into a formal FAA directive, will affect older 747s as well as some aircraft made by other manufacturers. The safety board's suggestions are, in effect, a valuable insurance policy for consumers not only in the United States but abroad, since what America puts into its jetliners eventually becomes the world standard.

—THE NEW YORK TIMES.

Overdue Amends

On Friday the Clinton administration has a rare chance to bring justice to a small group of wronged people in a case so clear that no one disputes the merits of their claim. These people were kidnapped from their homes by order of the U.S. government and imprisoned without hearing or just cause. The Justice Department should not pass up this chance to make amends.

By now many Americans know how the U.S. government rounded up Japanese-Americans and interned them in desolate camps during World War II. Fewer realize that the Roosevelt administration also persecuted Latin American governments to arrest ethnic Japanese living in their countries for deportation to the United States.

These Japanese Latin Americans — more than 2,000 in all — were stripped of their property and then, during the seaboard voyage north, deprived of their passports so that U.S. officials could label them "illegal aliens" upon their arrival in the United States. More than 800 then were shipped off to Japan in exchange for American civilians held there; the need for hostages was one reason they were seized. The rest

were kept in internment camps, in Texas and elsewhere, until after the war's end. Then most were deported to Japan, though a few hundred stayed in the United States or made their way back to their homes in Latin America.

In 1988 Congress passed a law to "acknowledge the fundamental injustice" done to Japanese-Americans during the war. In addition to an apology, former internees were entitled to \$20,000 apiece in a kind of partial reparation, and more than 80,000 have since been paid. But the government has refused to accord similar treatment to the Japanese Latin Americans because they were neither citizens nor legal resident aliens. Of course, they were in the United States illegally because the U.S. government brought them and stole their passports.

A group of Japanese Latin Americans has filed suit, and Loren A. Smith, chief judge of the U.S. Court of Federal Claims, has urged the government to settle at a meeting to be held Friday. "This would do great credit to the moral integrity of our nation," Judge Smith wrote. He's right.

—THE WASHINGTON POST.

Broaching a Taboo

The Social Security forum in which President Bill Clinton participated this week was a serious, substantive discussion of a subject that has hitherto been supposed to be politically taboo. The more discussion the better as the parties embark on the restructuring of a retirement system on which a seventh of the United States depends.

A range of opinion was represented in the session Tuesday, but there was more agreement than not, in part because there was not a lot of posturing in which one side or the other suggests a way to fix the system at no or negligible cost. The president, to the contrary, called attention to the trade-offs that will be required to finance the retirement not just of the baby boomers but of the generation to follow. That's good. It

is what people need to understand. There has been a lot of talk about how "privatization" might be the salvation of the system, giving people all or some of their Social Security taxes to invest instead of sluicing the money through the government. But that is a riskier proposition than the privatizers allow. Mr. Clinton said the right place to start was at the other end, with a set of guarantees. Then maybe a layer of compulsory savings and individual investment could be added on top.

Mr. Clinton did not spell out a plan, but that is not what the administration needed to do at this point. What it needed to do was provide both parties with political cover so that they will consider the subject safe to debate.

—THE WASHINGTON POST.

An Inside Look at U.S. Foreign Policy Indecision

By Jim Hoagland

WASHINGTON — The first detailed insider account of foreign policy battles in the Clinton presidency emerges in a few weeks with the publication of Richard Holbrooke's diplomatic memoir on Bosnia.

It is an unsettling, prophetic book that raises serious questions about the direction of U.S. involvement in the ethnic conflicts of the Balkans.

Advance copies of Mr. Holbrooke's "To End a War" are being circulated to policymakers and others as the flames of civil conflict lick higher in Serbia's Kosovo province.

The parallels between the indecisiveness and confusion that initially split the United States and its European allies over Bosnia, and the current diplomatic impasse on Kosovo, are as disturbing as they are evident.

Mr. Holbrooke is currently a Wall Street banker whose Washington career is in remission but far from over. Not surprisingly, he is full of praise for and protective of President Bill Clinton.

But taken as a whole his portrait of Mr. Clinton is that of an inattentive, disengaged chief executive forced by bureaucratic guile and circumstances into committing 20,000 U.S. troops to Bosnia because he had left himself no other option.

That portrait is especially devastating because it is largely inadvertent. Mr. Holbrooke, Mr. Clinton's former assistant secretary of state for Europe

and architect of the Dayton conference that ended the Bosnian war in 1995, is a loyalist and a leading contender to be a Democratic secretary of state someday. He is not out to insult the future.

But neither does he turn away from an unavoidable truth. He notes that presidential decision-making rarely occurred at the Principals' Meeting — the administration's highest deliberative internal forum — "because the real principals, the president and vice president, rarely attended them."

Instead, when disagreements flared up, "the decision-making process would often come to a temporary halt, which was followed by a slow, laborious process of telephoning and private deal-making."

"Most high-level meetings on Bosnia had a dispirited, inconclusive quality" that led to "inaction or half-measures instead of a clear strategy" in Mr. Holbrooke's first year in office, before the Croatian ground offensive and NATO bombing of the summer of 1995 cleared the way for success at Dayton.

Fittingly, the crucial scene of this description of how Mr. Clinton was dragged into exerting leadership on Bosnia that summer occurs at a glittering White House dance. The ego and concern for celebrity and social glamour that drive Mr. Clinton and many of his associates — not least among them

Mr. Holbrooke — slip into view throughout the book.

At the end of that "magic" evening, Mr. Holbrooke tells an uncomprehending Mr. Clinton that he will in fact have to live up to a public promise he casually made to help allied troops out of Bosnia if the fighting continues.

Unknown to Mr. Clinton, the Pentagon has hardened the promise into an operations plan already approved by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. To back out would wreck the alliance.

The idea that he has made a promise he cannot unmake finally engages Mr. Clinton's attention on Bosnia. This is the acorn that grows into the tree of Dayton in Mr. Holbrooke's account.

It is a brilliant bureaucratic manipulation, performed in the worthy cause of restoring American credibility and effectiveness abroad and maintaining history's most successful alliance.

To those same ends, Mr. Holbrooke unflinchingly tells of outflanking his main Washington rival — Mr. Clinton's now departed national security adviser, Tony Lake, who temporarily shut Mr. Holbrooke out of key policy meetings — and of prevailing over stuffy, vengeful French diplomats who wanted to deny the United States credit for success in Bosnia.

His account of Dayton rings true. If anything, Mr. Holbrooke underplays the audacity and courage he showed in bracing Mr. Clinton, and then in massaging the gangster mentalities of Ser-

bia's Slobodan Milosevic and his Balkan rivals into stopping the killing in Bosnia.

The book argues that only clear and forceful U.S. leadership, backed with real muscle where necessary, can contain the evil and threat to U.S. interests Mr. Holbrooke sees proliferating abroad.

"There will be other Bosnias in our lives," he wrote only a few months before armed clashes between Serbs and Albanian Kosovars raised the prospect that the next Bosnia has already begun.

The administration's response on Kosovo has been uncertain and hesitant, voicing tough rhetoric but then backing off under pressure from the Contact Group, a steering committee of European, Russian and American diplomats. Mr. Holbrooke quickly bent the Contact Group to American purposes instead of deferring to it on Bosnia, as the State Department seems now ready to do on Kosovo.

"The world will look to Washington for more than rhetoric the next time we face a challenge to peace or, as in the case of the Asian financial crisis, economic stability," Mr. Holbrooke writes at the end of his book, which is an indirect but broad challenge to the way U.S. foreign policy is now being conducted. "One cannot have a global economic policy without a political and strategic vision to accompany it."

The Washington Post

Clinton's Rwanda Apology Is Fine, but America Needs to Act

By Yael S. Aronoff

WASHINGTON — President Bill Clinton's apology during the Rwandan genocide is a welcome first step toward the prevention of future genocides.

Absent from his apology, however, were specific statements about what he and his administration ought to have done differently at the time — beyond the vague "we should have done more" — and what they would do in the future if genocide were under way.

Absent these specifics, the apology constitutes a genuine empathy with the suffering of others, but it does not do enough to ensure that future genocides will be prevented or ended. Once genocide is under way, it is unlikely that anything but military force will end the horror.

The main question the president needs to address is, "Do you support military action by UN forces, and by U.S. forces when the United Nations is not acting quickly enough to stop genocide already under way?"

In his recent speech to the Rwandans, President Clinton highlighted three claims: first, that he did not fully appreciate the depth and speed of the genocide; second, that his administration should have called the killings "genocide" earlier;

third, that the United States should have acted more quickly to stop the genocide and not have allowed the refugee camps to become safe havens for the perpetrators.

While working in the secretary of defense's Office of Humanitarian and Refugee Affairs, I participated in the Department of Defense Rwanda Task Force. I had the stomach-turning task of sending daily body counts to my bosses every morning, and thus I can attest to the fact that the intelligence was there for anyone in the administration to see.

It is a positive step for the president to say that he and the administration should have called the murders by their rightful name — genocide. But had the proper term been used, what course of action would the president have been willing to take?

Even after the administration did begin using the term genocide, very little action was taken. Likewise, it is a positive suggestion to have the administration and the international community improve its system for identifying nations in danger of genocidal violence, but, as is clear here, information was and is not the main

problem. It is the political will to act on that information that is lacking.

I witnessed this lack of will. Despite lobbying by myself and others, even suggestions about interference with the radio broadcasts inciting the killing were discouraged by some in the Defense Department — not to mention suggestions about speeding up equipment for UN volunteers or sending U.S. soldiers to put a stop to the massacres.

There seemed to be an understanding at the time among practically all members of the administration and in the various bureaucracies that, after the deaths of U.S. soldiers in Somalia, Mr. Clinton would not be willing to risk any American lives in Africa.

When the United States finally did choose humanitarian intervention for Rwandan refugees in Zaire, after the genocide had ended, administration spokesmen stressed that American soldiers would be at virtually no risk.

Providing water to refugees was one thing; preventing Tutsi from being hacked to death was another.

Because there was no predetermined foreign policy goal

of halting genocide when feasible, and because there was a lack of political will to do so, it is likely that military intervention to stop the genocide may never even have been discussed.

I do not think that there was a Principals' Meeting on

Once genocide is under way, it is unlikely that anything but military force will end the horror.

Rwanda during the entire 2½ months in which the genocide was taking place.

This same unwillingness to engage in military action applied to the refugee camps following the genocide. The only way to have prevented the camps from becoming safe havens for the 30,000 former soldiers and militia men responsible for the genocide was to have supported UN or U.S. action in physically disarming these killers.

Thus when Mr. Clinton says that we Americans "should have prevented the refugee

Without such concrete statements his apology is reduced to: "We should have done more, but we don't know exactly what."

The United States, as the world's leading power, should lead the world into the 21st century having learned to put an end to the most barbaric and brutal acts of the 20th century.

The writer was assistant for regional humanitarian affairs in the Pentagon's Office of Humanitarian and Refugee Affairs. She contributed this comment to The Washington Post.

What Are 'Asian Values'? A Justification for Repression

By Jonathan Mirsky

LONDON — When I worked in Hong Kong, the chief executive, Tung Chee-hwa, frequently urged Westerners not to meddle with Hong Kong, whose administration and society as a whole he said were underpinned by "Chinese values."

Sometimes he transmuted these into "Asian values." This was Mr. Tung's list: "Trust, love and respect for our family and our elders; integrity, honesty and loyalty to all; commitment to education; a belief in order and stability; a preference for consultation rather than confrontation."

Sometimes Mr. Tung added "a preference for obligation rather than individual rights." When he was specifically referring to Asian values, Mr. Tung listed "hard work, respect for learning, honesty, openness to new ideas, accountability, self-discipline and self-reliance."

"North American" values, said Mr. Tung, who spent a number of years in the United States, are "freedom of expression, personal freedom, self-reliance, individual rights, hard work, personal achievement, thinking for one's self."

Once during an interview with Mr. Tung I suggested that all these values sounded Jewish to me. He beamed. "Yes. Some of my ..."

Of course it's all garbage. I once wrote to Mr. Tung recommending that he stop telling foreign reporters, as he sometimes did when questioned at news conferences: "You don't understand this. You are not Chinese."

I noted that in covering four governors, from Lord MacLehose to Chris Patten, I had never heard them or their officials say to a Chinese reporter: "You don't understand. You are not British." It would have been immediately condemned as racism.

Mr. Tung was not alone, however, in his interchangeable evocation of Asian or Chinese values.

In democracies such as India,

Taiwan, Japan and South Korea, these concepts are rarely invoked. When I interviewed President Lee Teng-hui of Taiwan last year, he said that the concept of Asian values was nonsense and was used only to divide people.

The Asian values fear what they usually call "instability." They say that their citizens value order and consensus. Like Mr. Tung they disparage the West's "immorality," and they gloomily point to the chaos of those countries that emerged from the breakup of the Soviet Union as an example of what happens when stability collapses.

This worship of stability justifies much. Mr. Tung says that

The worship of 'stability' justifies much.

while he values a free press, the media should present government policies "positively," and that he was considering whether criticism of the government on the radio might constitute subversion.

He notes without enthusiasm that demonstrations are of Chinese culture, but he wishes that everyone would pull together for "the good of Hong Kong."

Mr. Tung's fear of instability extends far beyond Hong Kong.

"As a Chinese man," he has said, he finds "intolerable" the notion of Tibetan, Muslim or Taiwanese independence. He will introduce laws for Hong

Kong that will forbid advocating or — as Michael Suen, one of his officials, clarified soon after the handover to China last July — even doing research on such independence. This is to protect China's "national security."

Some Westerners, usually foreign investors keen to keep friendly relations in the East, also claim that Asians are not interested in or fit for democracy. Foreigners who confront Asian leaders on human rights make things worse, in their view.

Members of American and other Western chambers of commerce in Hong Kong and Beijing rarely say a public word about human rights, and the handful who do are derided as worms.

Apart from justifying repression, "Asian values" is a paltry concept. How can you weave together Indian caste, Japanese Shintoism, animism in Borneo and New Guinea or the multifarious cultures in the Indonesian and Philippine archipelagos?

How to compare marriages, funerals and eating habits — forks, chopsticks, spoons and hands?

Champions of Asian values bang on about consensus rather than confrontation. (Indeed, this is the bogus notion that Robin Cook and Madeleine Albright have bought from Beijing to justify no longer passing resolutions against China at the Geneva human rights meetings.)

Buddhist sects have fought it out in Japan and Tibet. State torturers throughout Asia are no more interested in consensus than are their counterparts in Israel and Yugoslavia. In 1965, thousands of people were slaughtered in Indonesia, charged with being Communists; the real reason for killing many of them was because they were Chinese.

Cambodians died by the hundreds of thousands at the hands of their fellow Cambodians in

the Pol Pot years, and in China, where the old and intellectuals are highly prized, the party has executed who knows how many. During the Cultural Revolution, Red Guards ate "class enemies."

We Westerners are sometimes told not to apply our values to other societies. China especially refers to this as, first, arrogance and, second, intervention in its sovereignty.

Andrew Nathan, Columbia University's authority on Chinese politics, responds to these charges in his new collection of essays, "China's Transition."

"The more authoritarian a society is, the less we know about any differences that exist within it about value issues. ... By no coincidence, objections to foreign value judgments are voiced most often and most loudly by authoritarian governments, not by private citizens."

Beijing makes life very hard for "criminals" like Wei Jingsheng. He called for human rights and democracy beginning in 1977.

What kind of "values" are these? He is unquestionably an Asian who understands his own society very well. When he criticizes Western leaders for taking it easy on Beijing, he accuses them of buying into the Communist myth that "confrontation" is an affront to "Chinese values."

China's new prime minister, Zhu Rongji, admitted recently that his own 20 years in Maoist disgrace were so ghastly that he cannot discuss them. What world leaders will ask Mr. Zhu about the circumstances, much less the values, of the political prisoners in China's gulag and in Dapchi prison in Lhasa?

The writer, a former East Asia editor of The Times of London, contributed this comment to the International Herald Tribune.

IN OUR PAGES: 100, 75 AND 50 YEARS AGO

1898: April Diseases

PARIS — [The Herald says in an Editorial:] The last traces of winter diseases are diminishing with this sudden advent of spring, but the rise in the temperature will make people dress in summer costumes, and then, as the temperatures will certainly undergo some fluctuations, they will take cold and there will be a recrudescence of diseases of the throat, bronchial tubes and lungs. Another thing to be feared at this transitional season is the revival of rheumatic affections.

1923: Minimum Wage

NEW YORK — Another aspect of the whole wage question came up in the announcement of a decision by the Supreme Court, which laid down the principle that minimum wage laws are unconstitutional, the decision being made by five to three. The majority decision

was given in the case of a law passed by Congress to safeguard women and children workers in the District of Columbia. The decision held that the law was an interference with contracts between employers and employees and violated the Fifth Amendment to the Constitution.

1948: Deir Yasin

JERUSALEM — Jewish terrorists opened a new phase in Palestine's fighting today [April 9] by storming and occupying Deir Yasin, an Arab village two miles from the western edge of Jerusalem. Some 200 members of the Irgun Zvai Leumi and Stern Gang took the place during the day and still were in possession tonight. The action was the largest single operation yet undertaken by terrorists against either British or Arabs. It was the first terrorist venture into tactical fighting as opposed to bomb attack or simple raid.

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OPINION/LETTERS

Americans Honor King
But Ignore His Dream

By Bob Herbert

NEW YORK — The recent tributes to the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. have been folded and put away. They will be hauled out again 20 years from now on the 50th anniversary of his death.

Will anyone in the year 2018 pay attention to what King really stood for? I doubt it. The ceremonies will most likely be as earnest and as empty as ever. We honor King but we have never listened to him. The essence of his message has been ignored. He preached nonviolence. He believed strongly in integration. And he died fighting for economic justice for the poor.

It is still a shock to read the New York Times headline of Friday, April 5, 1968: "Martin Luther King Is Slain in Memphis: A White Is Suspected; Johnson Urges Calm."

There would be no calm. Non-violence was the foundation of King's philosophy, but the long, long night of extreme violence was already settling over black America when he was killed, and the dark has not lifted yet. The losses in the black community over the past 30 years to violent death and to prison have been staggering. Saying good-bye to the young has become the most familiar of rituals.

A great deal has been made of King's last sermon, delivered in Memphis, Tennessee, the night before he died. He seemed to prophesy his own death, and I believed for many years that his anguished expression during that sermon was the natural result of his sensing that he was about to die.

"Like anybody, I would like to live a long life," King said. "Longevity has its place. But I'm not concerned about that now."

He had seen the promised land, he said. "And I'm happy tonight. I'm not worried about anything."

But he looked worried and deeply sad. There was nothing in his expression to suggest that he was happy about anything.

I now believe that King was indeed grieving, but not for himself. I believe he knew he was losing the fight for nonviolent protest and realized the terrible toll that violence would take on the black community, and the

ways in which it would undermine the struggle for civil rights.

Newark, New Jersey, and Detroit had gone up in flames the previous summer. Militants with dashikis but no philosophy were advocating black separatism at the same time that they were applauding the destruction of black neighborhoods. Many of the whites who had enlisted bravely in the civil rights struggle had been seen packing. King himself was denounced as an Uncle Tom.

King was in Memphis to support a strike by sanitation workers, and violence had marred that effort. "Let us rise up with a greater readiness," King said. "Let us stand with a greater determination."

The bullet that killed him wrecked his jaw and damaged his spine. And it did incalculable damage to the United States of America.

The headline in The Times on Saturday, April 6, 1968, said: "Army Troops in Capital as Negroes Riot; Guard Sent Into Chicago, Detroit, Boston; Johnson Asks a Joint Session of Congress."

It was the worst rioting the country had yet seen. Even as King was being readied for burial, his fundamental principles were being betrayed.

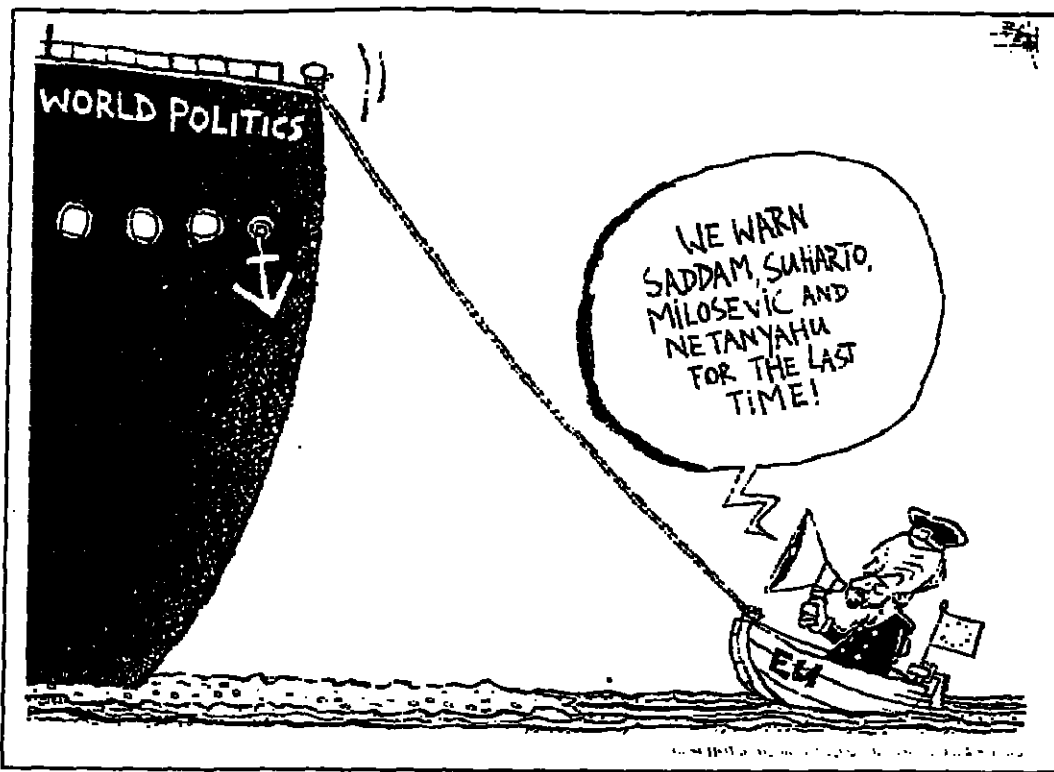
The following week, Look magazine was on the stands with an article by King. The article described his plans for a series of demonstrations around the country in support of additional jobs and improved housing for the poor. He vowed that there would be both "Negro and white" participation in the demonstrations, which were intended to help the poor of both races.

"Some of the black power groups have temporarily given up on integration," King wrote. "We have not. So maybe we are the bridge, in the middle, reaching across and connecting both sides."

He warned whites that racism was a "potentially fatal disease" and he warned blacks that violence and continued rioting "will strengthen the right wing of the country."

But he was dead and no one was listening. Now we honor him. But we're still not listening.

The New York Times



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Feminists and Clinton

Regarding "Clinton, Sex and Common Sense" (Opinion, March 24): Gloria Steinem and "Leah's" father, Ripps, both start (March 24).

As a feminist and a former admirer of Gloria Steinem and Anita Hill, I was dismayed by their views on the sexual harassment accusations against President Bill Clinton.

How can the behaviors alleged by Paula Jones and Kathleen Willey not be considered harassment or worse? Do Ms. Steinem and Ms. Hill expect us to believe that they would feel comfortable in a nation led by a president who feels free to drop his pants in their presence without any encouragement or invitation? Surely the definition of sexual harassment does not preclude such behavior just because the perpetrator takes "no" for an answer and does not repeat the behavior. Once is too much.

I hope that Ms. Steinem and Ms. Hill reconsider their statements before feminists become identified with such beliefs and are ridiculed by those who might otherwise sympathize with women's stand against harassment in the workplace.

JOYCE GLEASON,

Lincoln, Nebraska.

Ms. Steinem's rationalizations

reek of hypocrisy. Clearly, the reason she absolves President Clinton of charges of sexual harassment has more to do with politics than respect for women's rights.

Mr. Clinton supports Ms. Steinem's agenda: earlier malfeasances like Justice Clarence Thomas do not.

I am not a conservative and I respect the president, one of the best in recent years, for his many accomplishments despite the accusations concerning his private life. But Ms. Steinem's brand of establishment feminism has become a fixture in the "me first" world of pressure-group politics.

DONALD M. SEEKINS,

Nago, Japan.

The watchful eyes of the National

Guard. The states themselves have not and will not clean house.

MARK'S A. BOHR,

Kuala Lumpur.

Children With Guns

Regarding "Guns and Children" (Editorial, March 28):

To leave the serious reform of American gun laws to state lawmakers, as this editorial suggests, is not enough. The federal government will have to impose laws making adult gun owners criminally liable for misdeeds committed by children with their weapons.

After all, a civil war had to be fought to end slavery and the end to segregation came only under

British Car Makers

Regarding "Britons Lament the Loss of Rolls-Royce" (March 31):

Rolls-Royce is not "Britain's last domestic automobile manufacturer" as this article states. The Morgan Car Co. produces sports cars that many connoisseurs believe are better constructed and far more reliable vehicles than any Rolls-Royce.

PETER LOMAX,

Valbonne, France.

Oh Moses, You Great Big
Conservative Beast, You

By Steven R. Weisman

NEW YORK — After 40 years of wandering in the entertainment wilderness, Hollywood has rediscovered the Book of Exodus.

In 1956, with "The Ten Commandments," the director Cecil B. De Mille set a new standard for biblical epics. Now Jeffrey Kat-

zenberg, the former Walt Disney executive, is bringing the Bible movie back in animated form, but he has encountered problems undreamed of by Mr. De Mille.

Last year Mr. Katzenberg called on Jerry Falwell and 500 other religious figures to give advice about his movie, "The Prince of Egypt." Some saw his action as kowtowing. No doubt Mr. Katzenberg and partners in the new DreamWorks studio want to avoid the wrath of the Christian right, but there is also something to be said for caution on a sensitive subject.

Charlton Heston, who played Moses in "The Ten Commandments," recalled the other day that Mr. De Mille had also consulted rabbis, ministers and scholars. "You wouldn't do it any other way," he said.

As it happens, on Easter Sunday, which is also Passover weekend, ABC will have its 19th annual broadcast of "The Ten Commandments," a film that touches a huge audience with its blend of spectacle and kitsch. My favorite of the latter is the scene in which Anne Baxter, looking more like a love-sick Cosmo girl than Pharaoh's wife, teases Mr. Heston seductively about freeing the Jews.

Moses, Moses, you splendid, stubborn, adorable fool," she purrs, making you wonder whether Mr. De Mille had mentioned that line to his religious advisers.

From the look of the scenes being shown to journalists, "The Prince of Egypt" is ambitious in technique and scope. The studio says it took three years to create the four-minute sequence of the parting of the Red Sea. But if "The Prince of Egypt" contains any political implications, they may well be reminiscent of those still discernible in "The Ten Commandments."

You cannot see the De Mille epic without being reminded that

it came out when memories of the Holocaust were fresh and the civil rights movement was starting. But the casting was guided more by the box office than by politics. The director said he wanted someone who looked like the Moses of Michelangelo.

It is inevitable for each new generation to reimagine Moses. The baby boomers running the studios have already reinvented the western, the monster picture, the film noir and every other old genre, but not the biblical epic, which died out soon after the 1950s, when those films started to become empty self-parodies. Today they look like symbols of the studios' struggle to compete with television, only to decline just like the Roman and Egyptian empires they depicted.

The critic Michael Wood has even said that the studios subconsciously identified with the

doomed imperial edifices in their films. It is notable that DreamWorks is reviving the genre to steal Disney's thunder and establish itself as the first new studio in a generation.

Some see in "The Ten Commandments" hints of the politics of Cecil De Mille himself, a notorious conservative who tried to drive Communists and their sympathizers out of Hollywood. Was there an element of godless Communism to be found in the unbelieving Egyptians?

Mr. Heston said that interpretation had never occurred to him. "But certainly," he added, "Moses was a conservative."

How so? "You don't mess around with Moses. He was an angry, harsh leader, not a friendly fellow. This is not Jesus."

Now there is an interesting concept from the patriarch of Hollywood's right. Moses is a conservative. Jesus is a liberal. Somebody had better consult Jerry Falwell about that.

The New York Times

BOOKS

THE LONG HARD ROAD
OUT OF HELL

By Marilyn Manson with Neil Strauss.

269 pages. \$24. Regan/HarperCollins.

Reviewed by Jason Morgan

I'M still going through hell," Marilyn Manson writes part way through his surprisingly smart but confused autobiography, "and the only way to get out of it is to go through all the way, to the very bottom." Dante, of course, made the same journey nearly seven centuries ago — and our wayward rock star even includes an illustration from the "Inferno" depicting the famous nine circles of hell. But Dante was only touring. Manson seems to have become a permanent resident. And judging from this memoir, he doesn't want to escape.

Before there was Marilyn Manson — the stage name he derived from Marilyn Monroe and Charles Manson, symbolizing, he writes, the entwining of beauty and destruction — there was Brian Warner. Raised in Canton, Ohio, he was educated (in the loose sense of the word) at a Christian grammar school, where he was taught that UPC price codes were a sign of the Beast as foretold by the Book of Revelation. And the pictures! It's almost worth the price of the book just to see kiddie photos of the man whose ghoulish appearance has struck so much fear into the hearts of conservative Christians everywhere. He looked like Howdy Doody with his pendulous earlobes — which were later surgically reduced.

Manson's family is almost a book unto itself. The memoir opens with the prepubescent Manson discovering his father's best-kept secret: his paternal grandfather's cross-dressing. His volatile blue-collar father was a Vietnam vet who suffered from severe post-traumatic stress disorder after spraying Agent Orange in Vietnam. (And though not deformed himself, the young Manson was forced to attend a federally

sponsored study-and-play group for the grotesque, maladjusted children of U.S. soldiers who were actually exposed to the chemical.) One of their most memorable moments together occurred when his father "took me on his motorcycle to a strip mine near our house, where, using a rifle he had removed from the corpse of a Viet Cong soldier, he taught me how to shoot." His mother is portrayed as hopelessly weak and even neurotic.

Manson's musical ability is generally regarded as being abominably low, by just about any standard. It's pretty obvious that he considers himself more a performance artist than a singer or a songwriter. At a show early in his band's career, he hung a donkey piñata over the main floor, laid a donkey piñata over the stage, and pleaded with the audience not to break it. When the crowd inevitably smashed the piñata open, a shower of cow brains, chicken livers and pig intestines poured onto their heads. Such episodes illuminate the smart and playful imp behind the ghoulish makeup — and make "Hell" occasionally more than just a tolerable read.

The long middle section of the book, "Deformography," is almost beyond description. Summarize to mind every dirty activity that you can think of — wanton sex, drunkenness, drug abuse, self-scarification, satanism, violence, torture, verbal abuse — and then multiply these activities into as many permutations as you think possible. Manson will still surprise you with the luridness of his carnal episodes, virtually none of which are relatable here.

Aside from such pandering, I'm pleased to report that Manson's prose is surprisingly polished and even beautiful on occasion — though better sense tells me that it is probably the doing of his co-author, the Rolling Stone and New York Times journalist Neil Strauss. Occasional trenchant observations glitter like jewels and seem totally incongruous coming from the pen of someone like Manson. He writes: "Relationships nev-

er break cleanly. Like a valuable vase: they are smashed and then glued back together, smashed and glued, smashed and glued until the pieces just don't fit together any more." At other times, lush writerly excess à la William Faulkner gets the best of him: "What seemed to be emerging from this cocoon was hard and soulless, smooth and terrifying, scarred and numb, a malefic gargoyle about to spread its scabrous wings."

But what's pathetic is that Manson hasn't emerged from his cocoon, and he hasn't spread his scabrous wings. Whereas Dante eventually passed out of hell and into Purgatory, Manson ends "The Long Hard Road Out of Hell" never having left it at all, trapped in his own hedonism, imprisoned in self-loathing. There is no conclusion, no assessment, no advice offered — save for the empty promise of some huge scary personal transformation on the horizon.

The final pages of "Hell" are filled by a corpulent, rambling diary from his recent "Antichrist Superstar" tour, plus some ridiculous affidavits filed against him by residents of the cities whose arenas he was scheduled to play.

Manson might be crude and explicitly amoral, but these trumped-up charges are so patently false that you have no choice but to laugh. One person claimed, "I witnessed Manson call for the virgin sacrifice in which all the children in the concert arena are pushed forward by the crowd to be dedicated to Satan."

Early on, Manson writes tenderly of the paranoia of his grammar-school teachers: "The beast they lived in fear of was really themselves: It was man, not some mythological demon, that was going to destroy man in the end."

Too true, Marilyn! Readers will see that it is you, and not some moralizing Christian parents' association, who will destroy you in the end.

Jason Morgan, a Washington author, wrote this for The Washington Post.

BRIDGE

By Alan Truscott

THE best play of the Vanderbilt Knockout Team Championship at the American Contract Bridge League's Spring Nationals, and perhaps of the year, was made by Michael Seamon of the Cayne team on the diagramed deal. As South he reached an optimistic four-spade contract.

But when the heart queen was led, Seamon did something extraordinary. He played low from the dummy and when the eight appeared on his right he smoothly played the nine from his hand. This exposed him to a possible ruff, and another heart lead would have defeated the game.

But West felt sure that Seamon would have won the first trick if he could, so he assumed a singleton on his right. That meant that his partner had

begun with A-8-3, and that continuing hearts would permit South to establish the king.

So West shifted to a trump, won in dummy. A diamond was ducked to West, who played a second trump, still in the grip of the illusion created at the first trick. South won in dummy, led to the diamond ace, and played two more rounds of trumps. West thought he knew the heart position and discarded two cards in that suit to guard against a hypothetical club suit in the declarer's hand.

Now Seamon cashed two heart tricks, discarded his club on dummy's fourth heart and established a diamond trick to make the game. "That was the best play I have ever seen," said his partner, Michael Passell. And he has seen more than 30,000 deals in his career.

NORTH
♠ K J 10
♥ K 7 5 2
♦ 10 8 7
♣ Q 8 6

WEST
♠ 6 3
♥ Q J 10 8 4
♦ K J
♣ J 9 5 2

EAST
♠ 9 7 2
♥ 8
♦ Q 6 4 2
♣ A K 10 7 4

SOUTH
♠ A Q 6 5 4
♥ A 8 3
♦ A 9 5 3
♣ 3

Both sides were vulnerable. The bidding:

South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass
3 ♦ Pass 3 ♥ Pass
4 ♠ Pass Pass

West led the heart queen.

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Leisure

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A view of Cerro Santo Lucia in old Santiago, which contains many historic colonial mansions and churches.

Santiago Reinvents Itself Militarism Banished, Chile's Capital Is Thriving

By Calvin Sims
New York Times Service

SANTIAGO — Once considered the most militaristic country in Latin America, Chile has worked hard to overcome that stigma, emerging in the last decade as a model for economic and social change in the region. Its armed forces are no longer a threat, its restructured economy is among the fastest growing in the world and its reputation for innovation is firmly established.

Nowhere are these changes more evident than in Chile's capital, Santiago, a modern metropolis of 5 million people, set amid the august snowcapped Andes and fertile valley farmland.

In 1990, after losing a plebiscite, the military junta that had ruled Chile since 1973 relinquished power to an elected government. Free of repression, the city's intellectual and cultural communities are thriving again. And thanks to a steady flow of foreign investment, Santiago has all the trappings of a world-class city: skyscrapers, fancy and ethnic restaurants, trendy shopping malls, art galleries, rowdy demonstrations and pollution. While most buildings in Santiago are fairly new, the center of the old city, between the Mapocho River and O'Higgins Avenue, contains many historic colonial mansions, churches and government buildings.

During the day, most parts of the city of interest to tourists are safe to visit, and police officers are visible on major street corners and intersections. But visitors should exercise caution at night, when many petty thieves strike.

As fall arrives in the Southern Hemisphere and the leaves turn to brilliant hues of orange, red and yellow, Santiago is anticipating its coming-out party on April 18 and 19, when heads of state from across the Americas are scheduled to meet here at the Sheraton Hotel for trade talks.

The majestic neo-classical Municipal Theater, at San Antonio and Agustinas, (56-2) 369-0282, stages opera, ballet and symphony performances from March through December. On April 20, 21 and 22 at 7 P.M., the Santiago Philharmonic Orchestra will perform Bach's Mass in B Minor, directed by Juan Pablo Izquierdo and featuring the soprano Gabriela Lehman.

The opera "Jenifa," by Janacek, will be performed on May 9 and 16 at 5 P.M. and May 11 and 14 at 7 P.M. Another of the Municipal Theater's resident companies is the Santiago Ballet, which will present Domenico Scarlatti's "Taming of the Shrew" on May 22, 25, 26 and 27 at 7 P.M. Tickets at the Municipal Theater range from \$3 to \$145.

The National Ballet will stage "Mozartissimo," an interpretation of music by Mozart, choreographed by Georges Caciuleanu, on May 8, 9, 14, 15 and 16. And the university's symphony and chorus will perform Beethoven's Sym-

phony No. 4, Fantasia in C for Piano (Op. 80), and "Leonore" Overture No. 3, on April 30 and May 2. Tickets range from \$3 to \$15.

"Eros in Ecuadorian Art" will be on view at the neo-classical National Fine Arts Museum, Parque Forestal, (56-2) 633-3577, from April 17 to May 17. The show will include 98 works — of painting, pottery and sculpture — from Ecuador's Central Bank collection. Hours: Monday to Friday 10 A.M. to 7 P.M. Admission \$1, Sundays free.

An exhibition of works by Diego Rivera will be held at the Ralli Museum, 4110 Alonso de Soto Mayor, (56-2) 208-1798, from April 17 to May 17, 10:30 A.M. to 4 P.M., closed Monday and Thursday.

The "Chile Before Chile" exhibition at the Chilean Museum of Pre-Columbian Art, 361 Bandera, (56-2) 695-3851, offers a rare glimpse of cultural artifacts dating before the Spanish conquest from the country's five major geographical regions. Among them are tools, weapons and animal skins used by early inhabitants of Patagonia. Chile's frigid southern wilderness. From the northern desert, which was a trading center from about 80 to 300 A.D. there is a charming collection of primitive tribal hats worn by indigenous peoples. The exhibit will be up through the end of the year. Hours: Tuesday to Saturday, 10 A.M. to 6 P.M., Sunday to 4 P.M. Entrance fee is \$4; free Sundays.

PARKS AND PALACES

Santiago's most historic buildings are on Constitution Plaza, downtown, where at 10 A.M. on even-numbered days in April and odd-numbered days in May, one can view the impressive changing of the guard in front of the Presidential Palace. The palace was built in 1786 in the Spanish colonial style, with high ceilings and large wooden doors and windows. It was partly ruined in the 1973 military coup in which General Augusto Pinochet toppled the Socialist president, Salvador Allende Gossens. The building has been restored, and tours can be arranged through Oscar Pizarro, (56-2) 690-4069.

Parque por la Paz, or Peace Park, 8200 Jose Arrieta Avenue, stands as a memorial to the 3,000 political prisoners who died or disappeared during Pinochet's 17-year regime. The park, open Saturday and Sunday from 11 A.M. to 5 P.M., was the site of a notorious military detention center — Villa Grimaldi — where torture, murder and other atrocities took place. The city government razed the villa two years ago to create an open green space with trees and benches. A monument under construction inside the park will contain the names of the 224 victims who perished at the villa.

For a panoramic view of the city, go to the top of San Cristobal Hill, (56-2) 777-6666, a 1,800-acre park with a

zoo, botanical garden, swimming pools, picnic area and a 120-foot statue of the Virgin Mary at its peak. The round-trip fare up the hill is \$3, by either cable car or funicular, (56-2) 737-6669, at the end of Avenida Pedro de Valdivia Norte.

WHERE TO STAY Unless otherwise noted, hotel rates include breakfast.

Los Espanoles Hotel, 2539 Los Espanoles, (56-2) 232-1824, fax (56-2) 1048, has 52 tidy rooms adorned in soft grays and pinks with simple furniture and lithographs of gardens and other nature scenes. A double costs \$100.

The 33 cozy rooms of the Montebianco Hotel, 2911 Isidora Goyenechea Avenue, (56-2) 233-0427, fax (56-2) 233-0420, have hand-woven rugs and modern furniture. For a double, \$107.

Budget: Hotel Turismo Montecarlo, 209 Victoria Subercaseaux, (56-2) 633-9905, fax (56-2) 633-5577, is a friendly place with a small lobby and reception area. Its 65 rooms are nondescript but comfortable. A double costs \$50.

The Residencial Londres, 54 Londres, telephone and fax (56-2) 638-2215, has 28 simple rooms with high ceilings and wood floors. A double with private bath costs \$29. Breakfast of coffee and a roll is \$1.50 extra.

Luxury: The Santiago Park Plaza Hotel, 207 Ricardo Lyon, (56-2) 633-6363, fax (56-2) 233-6668, is an elegant Old World hotel with 104 rooms, decorated with a European flair. The paneled lobby has velvet sofas, antique chairs, Persian rugs and elaborate flower arrangements. Double: \$230.

HUNGRY? The increase in foreign investment and tourism has brought a new diversity of food-flight and ethnic restaurants. Aqui Esta Coco, at 236 La Concepcion, (56-2) 235-8649 or 251-9143, serves superb seafood amid decor that features navigation memorabilia. House specialties include grilled crab cakes, sea bass stuffed with crab, and white chocolate pudding with orange sauce. Dinner for two with wine is about \$80. Reservations are recommended.

La Cascade, 2930 Isidora Goyenechea, (56-2) 231-1887 or 232-2798, is an upscale French restaurant with large windows and burgundy decor. Dinner for two of cocktail, goat cheese salad, duck à l'orange, homemade ice cream with berries and wine is about \$100.

The popular Café Santa Fe, 10690 Las Condes Avenue, (56-2) 215-1091, pulses with Mexican music. Frozen margaritas, fajitas of shrimp, beef or chicken, and raspberry yogurt cake are favorites on the Tex-Mex menu. Dinner for two is \$60.

Frequented by local artists and designers, El Huerto, 54 Orrego Luco, (56-2) 233-2690, offers creative vegetarian cuisine, including salads, bean soups, homemade chesecake and pachamama — a regional dish of quinoa, black beans, corn soufflé and boiled vegetables. Dinner for two, with wine, about \$40.

For the Intrepid Shopper

Bargains and Riches In Jittery Hong Kong

By David Hochman
New York Times Service

HONG KONG — For a few minutes in January, it seemed to really matter that my right shoulder leans forward slightly more than my left. I was being fitted for a suit at W.W. Chan and Sons, one of the last of Hong Kong's great custom tailoring shops. As soon as I announced I wanted a suit made, it appeared that neither chicken flu nor crashing stock markets nor the return of the Chinese government could keep these master craftsmen from working their measuring-tape magic.

Suddenly, I was at the center of a storm of white chalk, straight pins and perspiration. Tang Yan Choi, a stout, tough-looking man, who — like many of the best Chinese tailors — claims Shanghai as his place of origin, tapped me in eight or nine places and grunted out something in Cantonese, while Raymond K.K. Kiang, the manager of the 41-year-old shop, took furious notes.

That's his secret method," Kiang said. "He reads your body."

If truth be told, I never really intended to come to Hong Kong at all. But when my girlfriend, Ruth Kennison, arrived home one December night ecstatic over a two-for-one Super Saver package on Cathay Pacific Airways for \$999 — one week, hotel included — we set our sights on Asia.

We knew the handover of the British territory to the Chinese and the general economic crisis in Southeast Asia had not been kind to Hong Kong. Tourism is

at 55A Peel Street; the handpainted snuff bottles at True Arts and Curios at 89-91 Hollywood Road; the grinning Chinese puppets from nearby Arch Angel Antiques (we bought one for \$45, after some haggling), not to mention the dried shark fins, wall-sized propaganda posters and centuries-old opium pipes.

Heading up the stairs to W.W. Chan's became a ritual during our weeklong stay. Kiang said he needed to see me each day for fittings — I had 31 of them — and now Ruth was in the adjoining room at Irene Fashions, Chan's women's division, having a jacket made.

The dark cashmere-and-wool suit they had whipped up overnight, and which, at \$875, would be the most expensive garment I'd ever purchased, still had chalk-marked lapels, no lining, no buttons, pins everywhere and only one sleeve. "Tang, friendly as ever, poked and tapped me unceremoniously, while Kiang politely reminded me to return the following morning.

INTO THE MADNESS On we went. We took a 15-minute double-decker bus ride inland to the madness that is the bazaar district. Promptly at 6 P.M. on Temple Street, a thousand *dai pai dong* — market stands — magically materialized. Hawkers with rickety card tables gridlocked the street, selling everything imaginable: ginseng tinctures, \$800 abalone meat, snake soup. While true bargains could be found (we saw chenille turtle-necks for \$3), the more exotic part of the night market was on adjacent Market Street, where opera singers, fortune tellers and sidewalk *feng shui* masters set up shop.

On On Lane is a perfect Hong Kong street. The dead-end alley in the Central district near trendy Lan Kwai Fong Street, off D'Aguiar Street, crams more into several hundred feet than most cities squeeze into a downtown. Arrive around noon, when it is most active.

One of the more intriguing shops in Hong Kong is here. Mountain Folkcraft, at No. 12, specializes in handmade arts and crafts, new and old, from all over Asia: Tibetan chests, Mongolian horses, Silk Road batik, paddle-shaped Chinese wooden cake molds, lotus flowers and Buddhas (we bought four for \$40 each), tribal costumes, musical instruments and jewelry.

We felt a touch of sadness heading over to Chan's that last afternoon to pick up our suit and jacket. Even in shopping stupor, it was impossible to ignore the depth of Hong Kong's distress. The week we were there, another major investment bank collapsed and the approaching Chinese New Year was looking bleak.

Kiang helped me into my wonderful new jacket, but even he couldn't contain his uncertainty this time. "Business is not so good," he said. "The next generation of tailors is not being trained, and I wonder if business can last much longer."

Dizzy from a week on the streets, we said good-bye to our tailors and to Hong Kong itself — pondering, as we would a Zen riddle, how a "Super Saver" vacation could have cost so much money.

Rio's Hippy Fair Offers Leather for the Tropics

For most travelers, shopping in Brazil probably conjures up images of semiprecious gemstones, with dreamy names like tourmaline, topaz and aquamarine.

But my favorite buy is leather and suede. In Rio you can find lightweight dresses, skirts and blouses tailored for tropical climates, supple and rich in a way never found in countries that associate leather with winter.

At the hippie fair on Sundays at the Praca General Osorio in Ipanema, near Arpoador, among the stands of handicrafts, silver jewelry and paintings, are some with reasonably priced soft suede blouses, miniskirts and bustiers, the last known by the wonderful name *tomara que caia*, "hopefully, it'll fall." Some of the suede blouses, which cost from \$40 to \$80, have been patterned with pinholes or small flower shapes that make them seem crocheted.

A few blocks west of the square, at 65 Rua Henrique Dumont, Max and Miriam Ferriann make handbags to order in a shop and factory no bigger than a row house living room. The store is called Grumet Handbags, but there's no sign to tell you so (it's open 8 A.M. to 6 P.M. weekdays and 9 A.M. to 1 P.M. Saturday). You can show her a bag from a magazine, pick the leather you like and the shop will make it for you in about three days. She charges \$80 to \$107, and

if you ask, will usually throw a change purse or the leftover leather inside.

And at Calçadas Vista Mar in Leblon, the neighborhood just west of Ipanema, Aldo Vaz, who has been in business 32 years, will use the spare leather to make shoes for about \$100 in about 10 to 15 days.

Jakarta's Flea Market: Just Name Your Price

It is hard to define just what's on sale on Surabaya Street in Jakarta, where artisans squat at the curb carving wooden Buddhas and polishing brass diving helmets. For tribal masks, silver cigarette cases, grandfather clocks, ivory miniatures, sextants, samurai swords, xylophones and telephone switchboards you've come to the right place.

A half-mile-long strip of cluttered cubbyholes about a mile east of the welcome statue in central Jakarta, Surabaya Street is the most famous flea market in the Indonesian capital, a festival of eclecticism from 9 A.M. to 6 P.M.

Antique treasures like Sumatran statuettes and Dayak headdresses jostle comfortably with their fake cousins, and the spoils of shipwrecks are piled beside tribal artifacts from Borneo.

You will get lucky at almost any shop you wander into, whatever price you name — in dollars or rupiah. Indonesia's shockingly devalued currency has been hovering at around 10,000 rupiah to the dollar for the last few weeks, or about one-fourth its value before Asia's economic meltdown hit last summer.

Despite the economic turmoil and fears of social unrest, Jakarta remains safe for visitors. On March 20, though, the State Department urged travelers to Indonesia to "exercise prudence and common sense, and avoid demonstrations and other situations that could turn violent."

A Market of Letters At Istanbul's Bazaar

Behind Istanbul's sprawling Grand Bazaar is a narrow alley leading toward the historic Beyazit Square and the grand portal of Istanbul University. It has been a book and paper market since the Byzantine period, and during the 19th and early 20th centuries was a center for the distribution of books throughout the Ottoman Empire. Today, it is not only a bibliophile's paradise, but also an ideal place to shop for magnificent examples of calligraphy.

The 100-yard alley known as Sahafkar Carsisi (Old Book Market), is wonderfully picturesque, with dozens of tiny shops crammed together, their wares overflowing onto display tables outside. Some of the shops sell tacky trinkets, others concentrate on university textbooks. But several have fine collections of calligraphy and meticulously painted copies of ancient miniatures.

At the foot of the alley, one of the first shops you pass is Dilman, which has an outstanding collection of large-format books about Turkey, Islam and related subjects. Its owner, Ibrahim Manav, and his daughter Aysegul, are also experienced buyers and sellers of calligraphy. Their walls are covered with exquisite examples of this age-old art, made by Turkish, Arabic and Persian masters.

Some of the most interesting are combinations of letters drawn to resemble animals. This form developed as a way of circumventing the ban on depicting figures that was enforced in some Islamic societies. A small lion-shaped piece is \$65 framed, a larger one in the shape of a bird is \$120.

Another fascinating piece is a 100-year-old example of calligraphy on glass. Depicting a sailing vessel within which intricate lettering has been drawn against a gold-leaf background, it costs \$600, framed and ready to hang.

At the other end of the alley is the delightful Turan, founded in 1901 by the great-grandfather of the current manager, Burak Turkmenoglu. You can find splendid old Korans here, including a gloriously illuminated one from the 18th century that costs \$1,100. Individual Koran pages, many of them handsomely drawn against gold-leaf backgrounds, range from \$30 to \$300.

You might want to combine your browse through these shops with a visit to the adjacent 16th-century Beyazit Mosque and a stop at the Calligraphy Museum on the other side of Beyazit Square. At the museum, ask to see a large piece on which the background is nothing less than the entire Koran, written in tiny script by an artist who labored for seven years.

(Stephen Kinzer)

THE CAR COLUMN

Something New From GM's Opel: How the Astra Lost Its Bumps

By Gavin Green

THE best thing about the old Opel Astra was that it was cheap to make. Opel is generally reckoned to be Europe's most cost-efficient carmaker. This is obviously good news for General Motors' accountants and shareholders, but it isn't the sort of discovery that will make Astra owners spring out of bed with a smile every morning.

In fact, there was very little about the old Astra that gave owners much to celebrate. It was a willfully average car, a perfect example of built-to-price appliance motoring. GM-style. Everything worked. Nothing endeared. In certain areas it was positively substandard. It handled and rode as though it had concrete in its tires.

So the most surprising thing about the new Astra — all new apart from the

carryover name and some of the engines — is that it is so pleasingly eager to drive. Its steering is sharp and it handles with a willingness and élan that will come as a revelation to old Astra diehards. Bumps under tire are quashed, not magnified. You may even venture out in the new Astra for the pleasure of driving, rather than purely for necessity.

The new one looks good, too, in a chunky, chiseled way. It is high-shouldered, big-tired and solid-looking. And while it won't exactly turn heads — it's too conservative for that — it is certainly a very professional piece of industrial design.

Mind you, the styling philosophy is quite different from that of archenemy Ford. The new Astra-rivalling Ford Focus is a much more radical-looking car, typical of Ford's newfound boldness and desire to make "statement" cars as opposed to mere transport. As with Opel, Ford used to trail Europe's indigenous

mass makers in ride and handling, but in the past few years, Ford has changed tack, to become one of Europe's most progressive makers. GM has been caught napping, and the new Astra is part one of Operation Wake Up.

The new Astra, which largely uses carryover motors, has seen improvements. The 1.8-liter model, as featured, feels almost GTI-fast, complete with a sporty twin-cam bark, yet it is economical, too. The smaller 1.4 and 1.6 models have more induction noise — they can be quite wearying on long runs. But they, too, offer pleasing economy.

THE BUCK STOPPED HERE The interior was one of the best points of the old Astra: an intriguingly curvaceous design that was nicely made. How strange, then, that while the GM bean counters approved big spending on handling/ride/steering/exterior design, the largesse stopped when it came to the

inside. It is certainly roomy enough, the most spacious interior in the class. But the plastics that swathe the interior are unremittingly second-rate.

So we're left with a car that is a huge improvement over its predecessor: endeavoring to look at, impressively roomy, and with a fine range of perky, economical motors. With just a bit more effort, a competent new car could have been an excellent one.

• Opel Astra (known as the Vauxhall Astra in Britain) 1.8 CDX. About \$25,000. Four-cylinder, 16-valve twin-cam engine, 1796cc, 115 bhp at 5,400 rpm. Front-wheel drive, five-speed manual transmission. Top speed: 200 kph (124 mph). Acceleration: 0-100 kph in 9.9 seconds. Average fuel consumption: 9.2 liters/100 kilometers.

Next: The Renault Clio

Gavin Green is the editor in chief of Car magazine.



INTERNATIONAL

For Clinton, a Personal Investment in the Success of the Ulster Peace Talks

By Tyler Marshall
Los Angeles Times Service

WASHINGTON — On St. Patrick's Day, President Bill Clinton invited an array of political leaders to a White House reception marking the Irish holiday. Although the event celebrated Irish heritage, it also had a clear, calculated political purpose. Not by chance, the guest list that night included most key participants in the Northern Ireland peace talks, and Mr. Clinton seized the chance to press personally for agreement.

"He spoke without notes, and you could feel the energy and emotion," recalled an Irish diplomat, who added that Mr. Clinton made a "heartfelt" plea for the negotiators "to have the courage, to go the extra mile for peace."

"The atmosphere was electric," the diplomat said.

The occasion — coupled with almost two days of concentrated one-on-one talks at the White House about Northern Ireland that preceded the

reception — offers merely one example of the enormous investment of time and energy Mr. Clinton and his most senior foreign affairs advisors have made in the latest phase of the search for peace in Ulster.

Under a deadline imposed by participants, the talks were to end, in success or failure, by midnight Thursday.

Partly because the fate of Northern Ireland is hardly crucial to U.S. global interests, the extent of Mr. Clinton's role has gone largely unnoticed. But those involved say he has proved vital to making the current 22-month-old peace effort probably the best chance in a generation for ending the waves of sectarian violence that have poisoned normal life in Northern Ireland.

Unlike its involvement in the Middle East peace process, the United States has not been actively involved in developing details of possible compromises. Instead, Mr. Clinton has pressured the parties to reach an agreement, injecting a sense of urgency to the negotiations. He has held out the

prospect of U.S. economic support if they do.

"It's been a bit like herding the crowd toward a finish line without indicating where that finish line was," an administration official said.

Just why the administration has devoted such resources to the conflict between Roman Catholics and Protestants, which has splintered on in one form or another for nearly 300 years, is unclear. A White House official insisted that the conflict did matter to the United States, noting that it constituted a major security distraction for Britain, America's closest Atlantic ally, and that Irish nationalism quickly spilled into U.S. domestic politics.

"There are 40 million Americans of Irish descent," the official said. "This is not your normal foreign piece of land."

The personal involvement by Mr. Clinton — who traces his own roots in part to Ireland — has catalyzed U.S. efforts across a broad front. These are among them:

• After a bitter internal fight in the admin-

istration, Mr. Clinton personally approved a visa for Gerry Adams, leader of Sinn Féin, the Irish Republican Army's political wing, to visit the United States — and the White House — in March 1994. Although opposed by then-Secretary of State Warren Christopher because it put serious strains on U.S.-British relations, the visit by Mr. Adams is now seen as a major factor in convincing the IRA's most militant members that a political means exists for their long-term goal of achieving a united Ireland.

• In another unusual move, Mr. Clinton became the first president to engage leaders of Northern Ireland's majority Protestant community in substantive dialogue. Talks with Protestant leaders, who want to maintain the province's political union with Britain and bitterly oppose a united Ireland, began in summer 1994 and increased the next year, when David Trimble took over as head of the Ulster Unionist Party.

These contacts altered the long-standing U.S. image in Protestant eyes as hopelessly biased in

favor of Irish nationalism and the IRA. "We feel there's been a growing understanding of the unionist position here," said Ann Smith, who heads an Ulster Unionist Party contact bureau established in Washington in 1995.

• Although the independent chairman of the peace talks, George Mitchell, a former U.S. senator, has no direct link to the administration, both Mr. Clinton and senior administration officials have encouraged and supported his work.

Mr. Clinton's strong emotional attachment to the issue has been made clear on occasions like the St. Patrick's Day reception. Once asked about the single best day of his presidency, he replied that it was in his late autumn visit in 1995 to Northern Ireland and the Irish Republic, where he was met by large, enthusiastic crowds convinced he had already played an important role in establishing a cease-fire that temporarily halted violence.

"He was hailed as the peacemaker," said a source who witnessed the reception.

U.S. Unable to Confirm Karadzic Will Surrender

Reuters

WASHINGTON — The United States said Thursday that the international community was "tightening the noose around the neck of Radovan Karadzic," the former Bosnian Serb leader, but that it could not confirm that negotiations were going on for his surrender to a UN court.

The State Department spokesman, James Rubin, was responding to a report from London that Mr. Karadzic, the most-wanted war crimes suspect of the Bosnian war, was seeking terms for his surrender to the international tribunal in The Hague.

"As far as any separate negotiations are concerned, if they're occurring, it's up to the tribunal to talk about them," Mr. Rubin said. "We hear reports of this

from time to time, and many times they turn out to be smoke and no fire, so to speak."

Western officials in Pale, Mr. Karadzic's base, said Wednesday that he might have fled into hiding outside Bosnia.

The French daily newspaper Le Monde reported that he was now in an East European country, possibly Belarus.

Mr. Rubin, speaking at a news conference, said that the Clinton administration in general was prepared to accept whatever terms the tribunal in The Hague might negotiate with the former Bosnian Serb leader.

Mr. Karadzic's scope for action was constantly being reduced, Mr. Rubin said.

"Certainly, the international community is tightening the noose around the neck of Mr. Karadzic by shrinking his political space, shrinking his power base, shrinking his ability to operate and increasing the power and political space for moderate Bosnian Serbs," he added.

A Western diplomat in London said that the negotiating process had been going on for some time and that Mr. Karadzic could be giving himself up to the tribunal in "days or weeks."

In the latest strike against Karadzic supporters, NATO-led troops arrested two Bosnian Serb war crimes suspects on Wednesday and flew them early Thursday to custody in The Hague, where they were jailed.



The Ulster Unionist Party leader David Trimble, right, and party delegates studying a copy of the draft peace settlement Thursday in Belfast.

ULSTER: Deadline Looms

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Easter."

The strongest force pushing toward agreement was a widely shared fear of a return to the three decades of sectarian fighting that turned Northern Ireland into a war zone and left some 3,200 people dead.

Street armies representing Protestants on one side and Roman Catholics on the other have waged a tit-for-tat terrorist struggle. The victims have ranged from pensioners in wheelchairs to a pregnant woman walking through a shopping mall.

Opinion polls show that a large majority of the population wants to see a peace agreement come from the present talks.

But memories are long in Ireland, and the decades of outright hatred make it harder for the parties to agree. "We need to find the courage to trust each other," said Professor Anthony Alcock, a historian who is a negotiator for the Progressive Unionist Party.

Trust has been in short supply, though, in this province of 1.6 million people where neighborhoods, public buildings and even churches are surrounded by bullet-pocked concrete walls topped with menacing bales of barbed wire.

The red brick walls of Belfast's neighborhoods are marked with brightly colored murals honoring the memory of gunmen and bombers killed in the terrorist battles.

On Rise in U.S. South: Israeli 'Bible Bread'

Bloomberg News

MIAMI — For the Israeli entrepreneur Dani Yassor, who bottled Jordan River water and sold it to Christians in the United States, it only made sense to take another food associated with the Holy Land — unleavened bread — and sell it in the Southern Bible Belt.

Mr. Yassor, a food importer and a partner in Galilee Splendor Ltd. of Miami, is seeking to turn matzo into a hit with Christians. Calling his crackers Bible Bread, he flavored them with honey, poppy seeds and garlic, pitching them as the "original fast food."

With limited distribution and heavy promotional spending, Bible Bread had sales of \$120,000 in eight months. The product sells for about \$2.75 a 7-ounce box.

"The connection to the Bible and those who are reading the Word, that's what people like," said Denise Peters, a Bible Bread buyer from Dothan, Alabama, and frequent leader of tour groups to Israel.

Bible Bread is modeled after the unleavened bread the Hebrews baked as they left Egypt. In their haste to leave the nation that enslaved them, the Hebrews did not let the bread rise. Jews commemorate the Exodus during Passover by eating the flat bread, known as matzo. Passover's eight days begin Friday night.

The response to Bible Bread from visiting church groups was positive. "They felt they were taking a bite out of history," Mr. Yassor said.

Death Toll Nears 100 In Algerian Attacks During Feast Week

Reuters

PARIS — Nearly 100 civilians and Islamic rebels have been killed in Algeria as the country celebrates the Muslim Feast of Sacrifice this week, Algerian newspapers said on Thursday.

Security forces earlier announced that 52 civilians had had their throats cut in attacks on villages and an outlying suburb of Arzew town. Algeria's main oil and gas export outlet in the northwest.

A total of 36 died during Sunday night and 16 overnight on Tuesday and Wednesday.

Describing one raid, the newspaper Watan said 15 "terrorists" attacked four families living on a farm on the outskirts of Arzew on Tuesday night.

Among the 28 people they slaughtered were a 4-month-old baby and several women, one of whom was pregnant.

Four of the women were raped before their throats were cut, said El Watan, adding that the only survivor was a 10-year-old child "whose throat had been clumsily cut."

In another attack the same night in Bir Ben Abed commune in Medea province south of Algiers, between 15 and 20 rebels attacked two houses on the edge of a village, killing a total of 12 people.

One family was killed by a bomb planted outside their house.

"A gun battle took place with the second family, which ran out of ammunition after about an hour," El Watan said.

"The terrorists then mercilessly set on them with knives and axes, killing five children and several women."

Another newspaper, L'Authentique, said five farm workers aged 18 to 30, who had been kidnapped last weekend, were found dead on Tuesday in the Fekane area, 300 kilometers (190 miles) southwest of Algiers.

The newspaper Khabar said eight more people were killed on Sunday in Sidi Hadjrus south of M'sila and four more in Bousaada district.

El Watan said security forces had killed 40 "terrorists."

IRAQ: Report by UN Experts Assails Iraq for 'Incomplete and Inadequate' Disclosures of Biological Weapons

Continued from Page 1

executive chairman of Unscow, have argued that there were no such restrictions on access contained in the February accord. UN inspectors treated the visits to the sites as preliminary or "baseline" inspections and expected follow-up visits later, with less fanfare and less notice. If Iraq concludes otherwise, the stage would be set for another confrontation.

The report on biological weapons, sent to the Security Council Wednesday by Mr. Butler, was one of four ordered in January, when Iraqi defiance of arms inspections had reached a crisis point. Experts on chemical weapons and missiles reached similar conclusions.

A comprehensive account of where inspections stand on all Iraqi weapons systems that must be eliminated before sanctions can be lifted will also go to the Security Council next week, giving diplomats more documents to work with than they have had for most other reviews.

From the end of the Gulf War in 1991 until 1995, Iraq had denied that it possessed biological weapons. But in August of that year the defection to Jordan of Saddam Hussein's son-in-law and former arms minister, Hussein Kamel, led to the "discovery" of damning documents the Iraqis said were found on the defector's chicken farm.

Since then, Iraq has made several "full, final and complete disclosures" about the biological pro-

gram, the last in September 1997. Experts have never found them credible.

The new report, compiled after a meeting of Iraqi and foreign experts in Vienna from March 20 to 27, reaches the same conclusion. Moreover, the foreign experts, including Russian and Chinese scientists, appear to have sensed that Iraq did not intend to allow the review to be too rigorous.

The experts report says that the Iraqi side "did not include within its technical team a full range of technical and managerial expertise to enable most of the technical issues to be fully examined."

Iraq produced no new technical information to add to existing documentation.

Iraqis also did not offer information on either the

current status of biological weapons programs or state conclusively when such projects were terminated if they no longer existed.

Missing from Iraqi documentation was information about Al Hazen Institute, a biological and chemical research center belonging to one of Iraq's numerous intelligence agencies. The Iraqis told the foreign experts that the institute had been destroyed because it was a failure.

"Current information makes this assertion difficult to accept," the report said.

Purchases of viral, fungal and mycotoxin strains are not explained, the report noted, adding that the Iraqi account of aflatoxin production was "implausible."

MOROCCO: Inroads by Militant Islamists

Continued from Page 1

university graduates, 70 percent want to settle abroad. The poll did not say so, but for most young people "abroad" means Western Europe or the United States.

By the standards of Algeria across the border, where Islamists are fighting to overthrow the government, the Moroccans are low key and moderate and have avoided any suggestion of violence.

But the example of Algeria, with its continuing massacres of civilians, has shaken many Moroccans. People here insist that such havoc cannot happen in this stable nation, where for 37 years King Hassan II has demonstrated his considerable political skills.

Moreover, the argument goes, Morocco is already an Islamic state with a king who is both the political and the

spiritual leader and claims to be a descendant of Mohammed.

But the Justice and Charity movement refuses to recognize the king as the religious leader, which is tantamount to blasphemy here. Abdessalam Yassine, the movement's founder, once mocked King Hassan, calling him "my dear nephew of the Prophet."

The movement contends that Islam and its rites have been corrupted and must be returned to a purer state.

In interviews, the king and palace officials dismiss the importance of fundamentalism, but its rise keeps prompting the question: Does militant Islam pose a threat to Morocco?

"Morocco is basically conservative and pacifist," said a Middle Eastern diplomat. "Militant Islamists are not now threatening the stability of the country, but they are clearly preparing for the future."

The clearest signal that the militants are taken seriously among the 28 million Moroccans is the government's response: Justice and Charity wants to be recognized as a political party and to take part in elections, but the palace has refused.

Mr. Yassine, who is close to 70 and has been in and out of jail, is under house arrest and barred from making public statements. The Ministry of Religious Affairs and the police watch members and clerics, even inside the mosques.

The government has urged another, more moderate Islamic group — Reform and Renewal — to join a small political party that won nine Parliament seats in December. Some people see this as a deft move to divide the Islamists.

There have been tensions at the universities, above all in Casablanca. With 34,000 students, Casablanca's university is Morocco's largest and serves as a political barometer. It used to be a center of Marxist activism until the Muslim militants took over the student groups.

At the large campus on the edge of town, there are no posters or banners, and students in jeans and sweaters mingle easily with those in long Arab robes and head scarves. In interviews, though, students and teachers said that while a few years ago students had practically stopped covering their heads, there had been a noticeable rise in the use of scarves.

Miss Maadi and her friends said many students were frustrated. "I feel I'm living in the middle of a traffic jam and I cannot get out," a young man said.

Paris to Muster More Police Against Petty Street Crime

The Associated Press

PARIS — Interior Minister Jean-Pierre Chevènement announced Thursday that more police officers would be put on the streets of Paris at the end of the year, primarily to fight petty crime.

Mr. Chevènement and Philippe Massoni, the chief of the police force, said the force would be called the "urban police of proximity." It will be composed of 5,350 policemen in uniform and 750 officers in civilian clothes to be redeployed from among the 300 police stations in the capital.

The force will be responsible for investigating minor crimes but also for policing demonstrations and guarding buildings.

HAJJ: Stampede Kills 150 Mecca Pilgrims

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Urdu for pilgrims to move along quickly.

Other policemen, wielding riot sticks, made room for pilgrims wanting to escape the crowds.

The deaths were the latest tragedy to befall the hajj, which in the past has been marred by stampedes, fires and political protests that turned violent.

Last year, fires driven by high winds tore through a sprawling, overcrowded tent city at Mina, trapping and killing more than 340 pilgrims and injuring 1,500.

In 1994, a total of 270 pilgrims, most of them Indonesians, were killed in a similar stampede at the site. In the worst tragedy, 1,426 pilgrims, many of them Malaysians, Indonesian and Pakistanis,

were killed in 1990 in a stampede in an overcrowded pedestrian tunnel leading to holy sites in Mecca.

Until Thursday, Saudi officials had praised the smooth running of this year's hajj.

To cope with the crowds, authorities commissioned more than 20,000 buses to transport pilgrims to Mina.

Saudi authorities set up 6,000 hospital beds and called in more than 10,000 doctors to attend to the sick. Dozens of first aid workers rode motorbikes to provide emergency help.

Since Thursday was the last day of the hajj, by evening, thousands of pilgrims were making their way to circle the Kaaba to end their pilgrimage.

The Kaaba, a cube-like structure at the Grand Mosque in Mecca, is considered the spiritual center of Islam.

TOO MUCH: Vitamin C Dosage Risks?

Continued from Page 1

ers." In contrast, vitamin C naturally present in food, he said, has no oxidizing effects.

Vitamin C supplements in large doses have been linked to genetic damage as far back as the mid-1970s. In a study then, Canadian researchers found that use of the vitamin in doses larger than in the British study, but not much larger than the amounts some people take to ward off colds and the flu, damaged genetic material in three systems: bacterial cells, human cells grown in test tubes, and live mice.

The lead author of the new study, Ian Podmore, said that at 500 milligrams, vitamin C did act as an antioxidant on one part of the DNA, the guanine bases. Oxidation of guanine to oxoguanine is what is usually measured to determine the degree of DNA damage through oxidation.

As expected, when the volunteers took a daily 500-milligram dose of vitamin C for six weeks, oxoguanine levels declined, "which is why vitamin C is generally thought to be an antioxidant," Dr. Podmore said.

But when they measured a second indicator of DNA oxidation, oxadenine, the researchers found that it had risen rather than declined, "indicating genetic damage to this DNA base," Dr. Podmore

said. A colleague, Joseph Lunec, said that at the 500-milligram level, vitamin C's "protective effect dominated, but there was also a damaging effect."

"There should be caution about taking too much vitamin C," Dr. Lunec said. "The normal healthy individual would not need to take supplements of vitamin C."

In the United States and Britain alike, the recommended daily intake of vitamin C for healthy adults is 60 milligrams, which can be easily obtained from foods — by drinking about six ounces of orange juice, for example. Larger amounts are recommended for smokers and for pregnant and lactating women, but even these amounts can be readily obtained from foods.

Dr. Lunec took issue with Linus Pauling, the Nobel laureate chemist who took 12,000 milligrams of vitamin C daily and suggested that people could take as much of it as they wanted with no ill effect.

"We think that's not the case, to say the least," Dr. Lunec said. "You can have too much of a good thing."

Researchers are now studying the effects of lower doses of vitamin C, "to see if we can maximize the protective effect and minimize the damage," Dr. Lunec said. Given the new finding, "it would be unethical to test higher levels."

RADIO: 'Hanoi Hannah' Told GIs That Vietnam War 'Wasn't Theirs'

Continued from Page 1

an alias that translates as Autumn Fragrance. Then she would play a melancholy song ("Where Have All the Flowers Gone?" was a favorite), read news of anti-war protests back in America and, on Fridays, read names of Americans killed in action from the U.S. military newspaper Stars and Stripes.

"My goal was to tell GIs they shouldn't participate in a war that wasn't theirs," she says now. "I tried to be friendly and convincing. I didn't want to be shrill or aggressive. For instance, I referred to the Americans as the adversary. I never called them the enemy."

Her scripts were written by propagandists in the North Vietnamese army who lifted their material from articles in magazines such as Time and Newsweek and newspapers such as The New York Times that North Vietnamese diplomats stationed abroad had sent home. Sometimes members of the U.S.-based anti-war movement brought the articles to Hanoi.

Mrs. Ngo smiled as she recalled the activists she had befriended, among them the one-time student radical Tom Hayden and the actress Jane Fonda, who was married to Mr. Hayden for a time. "They were very helpful," she said.

"In helping us explain to the GIs why the war should be solved by the Vietnamese themselves, not Americans."

She paused, perplexed. "You know," she said, "Jane Fonda never came back at all after the war. I wonder why. She'd made a tape I played that was very good. I heard that some years ago she made an apology in the United States for coming to Hanoi during the war. Is that true?"

Ten years ago, Ms. Fonda made a televised apology to Vietnam veterans and their families for her 1972 visit, during which she was infamously photographed at a North Vietnamese gun emplacement.

In many ways, Mrs. Ngo seemed an unlikely candidate to become the voice of communism. She grew up in Hanoi under French colonialism, the daughter of a prosperous glass-factory owner. She took private English lessons and perfected her command of the language watching French-subtitled Hollywood movies including "Gone With the Wind."

After working as a volunteer at the Voice of Vietnam, she was chosen in 1965, largely because of her unaccented English, to begin broadcasting to U.S. troops as Thu Huong.

"Yes," she recalled, "I wanted to make them a little bit homesick. It wasn't until several years later that

she learned that American GIs had nicknamed her Hanoi Hannah.

The trouble for Hanoi Hannah — as for other wartime propagandists such as Tokyo Rose, Seoul City Sue and Baghdad Betty — was that her broadcasts weren't very credible. The reports were also wildly exaggerated, announcing annihilations of entire U.S. divisions and losses of hundreds of U.S. planes in a single engagement.

Even the North Vietnamese themselves did not trust the news they heard on the Voice of Vietnam. If they spoke English, they tuned to the Voice of America, the BBC or Armed Forces Radio, a network run by the U.S. military, for their news of the war.

Now, with her broadcasting career winding down and herself having recovered from a motor-scooter accident that had left her laid up for two weeks, Mrs. Ngo says she hopes one day soon to visit the country she spent eight years talking about.

"San Francisco has always been a dream," she says. "And the Golden Gate Bridge and Hollywood, I'd love to see them, too."

If she could make one final broadcast to former GIs, what would she say? "That's easy. I'd tell them: 'Let's let bygones be bygones. Let's move on and be friends.'"

صوتها من الامم

Foreign Consumer-Products Companies See Signs of a Chill in India

By Kenneth J. Cooper
Washington Post Service

NEW DELHI — Even as the new government seeks to reassure foreign investors that they are still welcome in India, Finance Minister Yashwant Sinha is at best sending mixed signals to multinational companies that sell consumer products and might pose a competitive threat to domestic industries.

When India's insular, centrally controlled economy was opened wider in 1991, multinationals rushed to the world's second most populous country, attracted by potential customers estimated at more than 200 million of the country's 900 million people. The United States has led the way, with American corporations investing more in India

than businesses from any other nation.

But a new coalition government led by the Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party has preached self-reliance and vowed to discourage foreign investment in the consumer-goods area. The government, installed last month, appears to be still deciding how to carry out its investment policy under Mr. Sinha, a moderate who was finance minister for another coalition government at the start of this decade.

Government officials have unequivocally solicited billions of dollars in international investment to advance high-technology industries, increase exports and shore up the country's power plants, roads and ports.

Mr. Sinha has argued that the government's desire to channel private in-

vestment from overseas into such "core areas," as the new government calls them, should overshadow its resistance to opening the consumer market further.

"We have a very positive attitude, a very helpful attitude, a very encouraging attitude" toward foreign investment, Mr. Sinha said in a recent interview, "and we should not be judged merely by the fact we are saying, 'All right, we will not have foreign investment in this particular sector.'"

But at another point in the interview, Mr. Sinha adopted a more negative view, saying foreign investment in the past seven years had "done very little good" and "only created more problems," such as raising material aspirations that poor people will not be able to fulfill.

Officials have stated two reasons for

discouraging foreign investment in consumer products: After decades of protectionism, Indian companies are said to be so unprepared for competition that many would go out of business; and, second, the government wants to constrain consumer buying so that disparities between the rich and poor are less apparent.

"We cannot have a society where we have islands of very high consumption and vast seas of deprivation and poverty," Mr. Sinha said. "Therefore, there has to be some choice as far as consumption patterns are concerned."

The reactions of U.S. companies operating in India have been cautious but hopeful. While they await specific policies, several executives said they hoped that the government of Prime Min-

ister Atal Bihari Vajpayee would be more stable than two previous ones and would live up to a promise to speed bureaucratic approvals, which are a significant brake on doing business in India.

"There has been a sea-saw in political statements made," said a business leader who asked not to be identified. "We haven't seen any policy statements initiated. Consumer goods always get to be the whipping boy."

The new policy has heartened some U.S. companies. "I'm easy, I'm in the infrastructure business, so it's not controversial," said E. J. Reinsch, a vice president of Bechtel Group Inc., which is involved in energy projects in India.

Most of the \$11 billion in U.S. investment approved since 1991 has been concentrated in "core areas," with 40

percent slated for power generation or oil refining and 20 percent for telecommunications or electrical equipment. Of the \$11 billion approved, U.S. companies had actually invested only \$1.4 billion through last September, largely because of bureaucratic bottlenecks.

For multinational companies already selling consumer products in India, the new government has sent one reassuring signal by pledging that they can continue to operate in the country.

"We are not going to renege on any of our commitments," Mr. Sinha said. He and Mr. Vajpayee both have indicated that the new government will not reject all foreign investment in consumer goods. "I'm not saying we will prevent it, the finance minister said, but he added, "We are saying, 'We don't want it.'"

Hyundai Sets Big Layoffs As Domestic Sales Slump

20% of Work Force to Be Cut Under New Law

SEOUL — Hyundai Motor Company, South Korea's largest carmaker, announced plans Thursday to cut its 30,000-member work force by 20 percent.

Hyundai is the first major conglomerate to announce layoffs since South Korea adopted a labor law in February under pressure from the International Monetary Fund. The law gives debt-ridden businesses greater freedom to trim their work forces to become more competitive.

Hyundai's labor union called a protest rally for Friday. The Confederation of Trade Unions, an umbrella group, threatened nationwide strikes.

But Hyundai insisted it had no choice. "Layoffs have become inevitable because of sharp drops in our sales," said a spokesman, Shin Dong Ho.

Hyundai's domestic sales during the first quarter of this year dropped 50.8 percent to 64,000 units from a year earlier, while exports rose 19 percent to 124,000 units.

In return for \$58 billion in rescue loans, the IMF required South Korea to make its labor market flexible to re-attract foreign investors, whose flight from Seoul late last year set off a financial crisis.

South Koreans have begun making cutbacks since the IMF bailout in December. The car industry has been one of the hardest hit.

Until the new labor law, layoffs had been virtually impossible without the approval of labor unions or a court. Despite the law, Hyundai said it was negotiating the layoffs with its unions. But unions denied the company was talking with them.

"We have never heard from management about any job reduction plans, much less begun to negotiate with them," said Hwang Chi Soo, a leader of the Hyundai union.

Smaller South Korean companies have been paring back their staffs at the rate of 10,000 a day, according to government figures. The number of unemployed South Koreans has almost doubled between the end of last year and the end of March, totaling 1.5 million.

Officials expect the national unemployment to rise to 8.5 percent this year from 2.5 percent last year.

Hyundai's planned slimming down will affect mostly blue-collar workers. The company had previously laid off a few hundred executives.

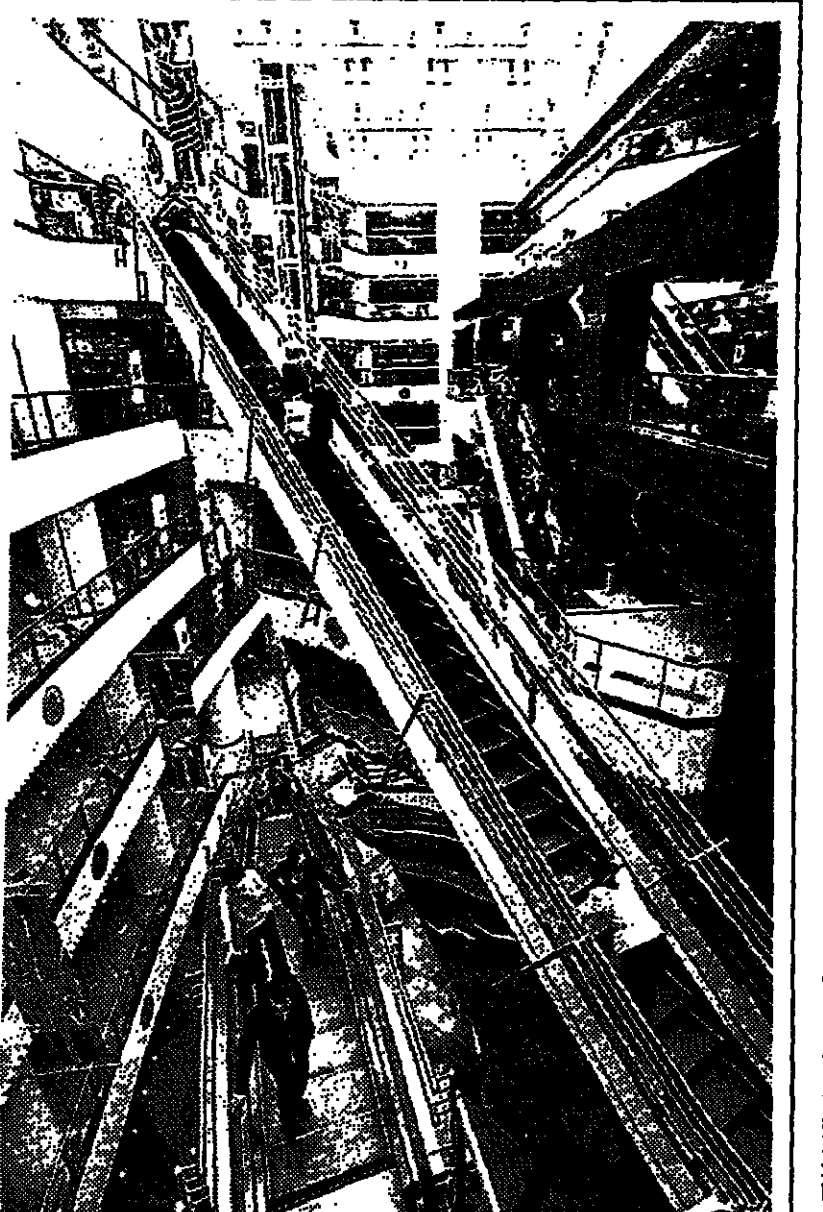
Hyundai, which normally produces 5,000 cars a day, has slashed its production by 60 percent this year because of a mounting inventory of unsold cars. Thousands of its workers are on paid leave.

All of South Korea's carmakers have scrambled to cope with falling domestic sales.

A spokesman for Daewoo Motor Co. said the carmaker had no immediate plans for work force reductions. Instead, Daewoo would cut salaries first, he said, adding that company wages had been trimmed by about 10 percent.

Kia Motors Corp. has been even more troubled. A spokesman for Kia, which is awaiting a court ruling on its receivership application, said it had cut the number of employees to 18,000 from 30,000 since last June and that more reductions were likely.

Kia has cut wages by about 50 percent over the last year, the spokesman said. (AP, Reuters)



GOING UP — Shoppers riding crisscrossing escalators Thursday in Beijing in an eight-story shopping mall, the Chinese capital's newest.

Credit Lyonnais Rescue: Paris Confronts the EU

Official Says France Has Done the 'Maximum'

PARIS — France has made all the concessions it can to satisfy EU demands over a rescue plan for the Credit Lyonnais bank while still keeping the bank viable, Finance Minister Dominique Strauss-Kahn said Thursday.

"France has made maximum concessions to keep Credit Lyonnais viable," the minister said.

France plans to double the amount of Credit Lyonnais assets it will sell to gain approval of a 100 billion-franc (\$16.45 billion) government bailout of the bank.

Mr. Strauss-Kahn said the government had written to the EU agreeing to a level of disposals by the state-owned bank "double what it was in 1995" and said France would go no further. Neither France nor the EU have put a figure on those assets.

"We are at the maximum that I consider to be possible if we are to maintain the viability of Credit Lyonnais," the minister said, without providing details.

"It is a condition over which the French government cannot give ground," he said. "The viability of Credit Lyonnais is a condition of principle which is not for discussion."

The European Commission had no immediate comment.

"This has been taken as a sign an accord is near," said Doug Fenton, an analyst at Natixis, a Paris-based bank. Mr. Strauss-Kahn's statement is good for Credit Lyonnais's shares, he said, because "the quicker the asset sales, the quicker the privatization."

Mr. Strauss-Kahn would not say which assets might be sold or what the new total of disposals would be. He said, though, that once those sales were completed, Credit Lyonnais would be, at best, Europe's 20th-largest bank.

The commission has said it wants the bank to sell BFG AG in Germany and a unit in Belgium.

Credit Lyonnais has said it is willing to sell its European retail banking assets, though it wants to retain its institutional banking businesses. If it gets rid of the corporate banking operations, it will abandon its current strategy of developing as a retail bank in France and an institutional bank elsewhere.

The commission has been negotiating with the French government for more than a year on conditions for

agreeing to new rescue measures for the bank.

If the government refuses to sell as much as the commission is demanding, the EU could order Credit Lyonnais to repay the 6.6 billion francs of aid it has received since 1995, when the first bailout was first cleared.

Tension between the government and the EU has increased as France has poured successively larger sums into a bailout of Credit Lyonnais.

On top of these direct subsidies, the state is likely to lose at least 100 billion francs on the sale of Credit Lyonnais assets that it took over in 1995. That would be more than double the 45 billion-franc loss the EU accepted then. Assessing the exact loss is difficult, as those assets have not all been sold yet.

Credit Lyonnais, once Europe's second-largest bank, posted losses totaling 21 billion francs in 1992-94 as forays into businesses such as real estate and media in the 1980s backfired. (AFP, Bloomberg)

INTERNATIONAL MANAGER

After a Shakeup, Lazard Strives for Cultural Change

By Peter Truell
and Laura M. Holson
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — A string of resignations after years of rapid expansion is causing Lazard Freres & Co., the prestigious 150-year-old investment bank, to try to act more like other established financial institutions — with committees and "governance." The firm is even stressing "collegiality."

If this cultural change works, it would be quite a turnaround for Lazard, traditionally a collection of individualist bankers advising the world's top executives. Squabbling among them had almost become a hallmark of the firm in the past couple of years.

This attempted cultural makeover, building on a new management structure created 11 months ago when Steven Ratner, 45, was appointed deputy chief executive, also includes a significant expansion of the firm's principal investing business and more internal promotions.

At their weekly meeting of investment bankers Monday, Michel David-Weill, 65, Lazard's chairman and chief executive, and Mr. Ratner said that a new "banking committee," made up of Kenneth Jacobs, William Loomis Jr., J. Robert Lovejoy and Mr. Ratner, would oversee the investment bankers who they said helped the firm make a record profit in the past year. The new committee replaces Gerald Rosenfeld, 51, the former head of investment banking who left two weeks ago to manage money at NationsBank Montgomery Securities.

"The beginning of a period of generational change is always a very difficult period," Mr. David-Weill said in an interview. "But change in itself is always pretty good." As for the future, he said, "we want to work more collegially and also to renew our tradition of principal investing."

The departure three weeks ago of Kendrick Wilson 3d, 51, the leader of Lazard's lucrative banking practice, for Goldman, Sachs & Co., a bitter rival, may have hastened the pace of change.

Mr. Wilson's exit may signal the end of Felix Rohatyn's sway at the firm.

After more than 40 years at Lazard, Mr. Rohatyn, the firm's senior partner and the personification of big-company dealmaking, left last May to become ambassador to France.

In all, seven of the firm's almost 70 New York managing directors have left in the past 15 months. Most of them worked in the firm's marquee business — giving financial advice to top business executives, particularly on mergers and acquisitions — and were, in many cases, more experienced than the 30 who remain in that practice.

Competitors, of course, are seeking to capitalize on the change and uncertainty at Lazard. Junior bankers are getting calls from headhunters and competing firms hoping to steal talent, according to people at the firm. It is rumored on Wall Street that more top-level departures may be on the way.

Mr. Ratner spent much of last week in meetings with the managing directors, parcelling out Mr. Rosenfeld's duties.

The firm's bankers also have been calling clients, assuring them that Lazard's service and franchise remain intact.

Several managing directors inter-

See LAZARD, Page 17

CURRENCY & INTEREST RATES

Cross Rates									
	USD	DEM	FF	YEN	GBP	JPY	CHF	HKD	SGD
Australian	1.245	1.330	1.334	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006
Brussels	1.252	1.344	1.338	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006
Frankfurt	1.252	1.344	1.338	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006
London (to)	1.252	1.344	1.338	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006
Hong Kong	1.252	1.344	1.338	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006
Japan	1.252	1.344	1.338	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006
Paris	1.252	1.344	1.338	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006
Tokyo	1.252	1.344	1.338	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006
Zurich	1.252	1.344	1.338	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006
1 ECU	1.252	1.344	1.338	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006
1 SDR	1.252	1.344	1.338	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006

Libor-Libor Rates									
	USD	DEM	FF	YEN	GBP	JPY	CHF	HKD	SGD
1-month	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50
3-month	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50
6-month	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50
1-year	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50

Key Money Rates									
	USD	DEM	FF	YEN	GBP	JPY	CHF	HKD	SGD
1-month	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50
3-month	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50
6-month	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50
1-year	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50

Other Dollar Values									
	USD	DEM	FF	YEN	GBP	JPY	CHF	HKD	SGD
Australian	1.245	1.330	1.334	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006
Brussels	1.252	1.344	1.338	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006
Frankfurt	1.252	1.344	1.338	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006
London (to)	1.252	1.344	1.338	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006
Hong Kong	1.252	1.344	1.338	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006
Japan	1.252	1.344	1.338	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006
Paris	1.252	1.344	1.338	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006
Tokyo	1.252	1.344	1.338	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006
Zurich	1.252	1.344	1.338	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006
1 ECU	1.252	1.344	1.338	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006
1 SDR	1.252	1.344	1.338	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006

Forward Rates									
	USD	DEM	FF	YEN	GBP	JPY	CHF	HKD	SGD
1-month	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50
3-month	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50
6-month	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50
1-year	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50

PROCUREMENT NOTICE (PN)

Sheep Development Project (Credit N° 2859-KG)

Procurement of breeding rams and hoggies

1. The Government of the Kyrgyz Republic has received a Credit (Credit N° 2859 - KG) from the International Development Association (IDA) and a Loan from the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) in various currencies equivalent to US\$16.8 towards the cost of the Sheep Development Project (the Project). It is intended that part of the proceeds of this Credit and Loan will be applied to eligible payments for procurement of breeding rams and hoggies under this Project.

2. The Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources of the Kyrgyz Republic (MAWR) (hereinafter the Purchaser) is responsible for the overall management and execution of the Project. MAWR established the Project Implementation Unit (PIU) to carry out implementation activities. PIU is duly authorized to invite, evaluate and finalize bids and sign contracts.

3. In this respect, PIU wishes to invite expressions of interest from suppliers dealers and/or authorized brokers/agents in order to select qualified firms, meeting the criteria in para 4 below, for the supply of the following items of breeding rams and hoggies:

Item A	Improved merino rams (selected in top) poll	180 rams
Item B	Improved merino rams (selected in top) poll	40 rams
Item C	Merino hoggies poll (crossbred)	400 hoggies

4. A minimum requirement should be met by the applicant in order to be selected for the Limited International Bidding exercise (LIB). Selection will be based on meeting the following minimum pass/fail criteria:

- (I) evidence of certification license as an international trade exporter of sheep or other livestock;
- (II) previous experience on similar contracts (at least two contracts), contact person and addresses for reference;
- (III) technical capability such as quarantine and humane transportation.

5. All expressions of interest should be received by 17.00 local time, 13 April 1998 to the below address:

PIU Manager, Project Implementation Unit of MAWR
Suite 517, Kievskaya 960, 720300 Bishkek, the Kyrgyz Republic
Tel: +996 (3312) 22 35 83 Fax: +996 (3312) 62 04 09 E-mail: kurtman@infokio.bishkek.kg

6. Expressions of interest received by facsimile is acceptable. The Purchaser reserves the right to accept or reject late expression of interest. It is expected that invitation to Bid will be made in 13 April 1998. Qualification is open to firms from eligible source countries as defined in the guidelines. Procurement under ERF Loans IDA Credits. Applicants will be advised, in due course, of the results of their applications. Only firms qualified under this procedure will be invited to bid. Any inquiries and clarifications concerning this PN can be obtained from the address given above.

Healthy Earnings Bolster Wall Street

Continued from Page 1

NEW YORK — Stock prices rose Thursday, led by auto and computer shares, after companies in those sectors reported better-than-expected earnings and the government said inflation remained tame.

"The economic environment is about as good as I've seen in my lifetime," said George Mairs, president of Mairs & Power Inc.

The Dow Jones industrial average was up 103.38 points at 8,994.86. The Standard & Poor's 500 index climbed 9.02 to 1,110.67, and the Nasdaq composite index rose 13.23 to 1,820.24.

U.S. STOCKS

in the quarter, up from \$16.1 billion in the first three months of 1997.

Chrysler closed 7/16 higher at 43 1/2, and Ford Motor rose 2/4 to 46 1/4.

Yahoo! soared 16 to 113 1/4 after the No. 1 Internet directory's first-quarter earnings rose, topping expectations as it gained revenue from advertising and electronic commerce.

Yahoo! said net income climbed to \$4.29 million, compared with a pro-forma loss of \$740,000 in the year-earlier period. Revenue tripled to \$30.2 million from pro-forma revenue of \$10.1 million. Elsewhere in the technology sector, Excite and America Online also rose.

Abbott Laboratories rose 11/16 to 76 1/4 after the pharmaceutical company reported a 10 percent jump in first-quarter profit to \$590 million, citing strong sales of its hospital and laboratory products.

Polaroid rose 15/16 to 42 1/4, even though the company reported a first-quarter loss of \$17.4 million almost five times as large as expected. But Chief Executive Gary DiCamillo said he still expected maker of instant photographic equipment to meet analysts' earnings estimates for 1998.

The cellular telephone systems operator CommNet Cellular rose after it said it would split its common stock 5-for-1.

Separately, the Investment Company Institute said investors had put an estimated \$27.5 billion in U.S. stock mutual funds in March, topping the \$24.2 billion invested in February.

"Investors are generally bullish, there have been no meaningful market corrections, and money continues to pour in," an analyst said. In March last year, domestic equity funds took in \$9.97 billion in net new cash.

(Bloomberg, Bridge News, AP)

Intervention and Stimulus Plan Lift the Yen

Bloomberg News

NEW YORK — The dollar fell against the yen Thursday after the Bank of Japan said it would intervene to bolster the faltering currency.

Finance Minister Hikoichi Matsunaga said Japan had taken "decisive action" amid "serious concern" over weakness in the yen, which fell to a six-and-a-half-year low last week.

The selling came in early trading in New York after the dollar rose on speculation that the spending measures and tax cuts announced Thursday by Prime

Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto would fail to revive the economy.

"This is the Bank of Japan saying the yen's weakness isn't acceptable," said Dick Alfaro,

FOREIGN EXCHANGE

a currency strategist at Potomac Babson Inc. "A weak yen is a problem for the rest of Asia and threatens to reignite all the problems in the region."

The dollar fell to 131.200 yen in 4 P.M. trading from 131.325

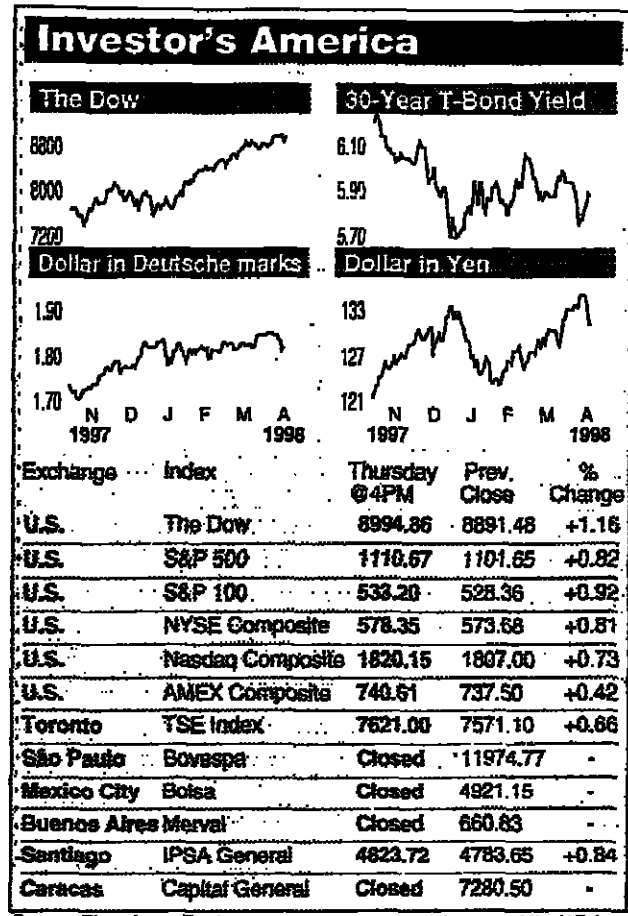
yen Wednesday. But the dollar rose to 1.8255 Deutsche marks from 1.8145 DM, lifted by a rise in the U.S. stock market. The U.S. currency was also at 1.5162 Swiss francs, up from 1.5096 francs, and 6.8123 French francs, up from 6.8018 francs. The pound fell to \$1.6707 from \$1.6763.

Japan's central bank sold dollars on its own behalf, traders said. The Federal Reserve Bank of New York also sold dollars as an agent for Japan's central bank, according to a senior Japanese Finance Ministry official. The

New York Fed declined to comment on the reports.

The U.S. Treasury secretary, Robert Rubin, said he welcomed the Bank of Japan's sale of dollars, adding that he shared Tokyo's concern about the weakness of the yen.

"The U.S. cares because we need Japan to be a strong trading partner," said Alan Day, a manager at Stratvest Group. "We can't afford Japan to become an economic vacuum that just exports and doesn't buy anything from us."



Very briefly:

- Dell Computer Corp. will not renew its contract for Digital Equipment Corp. to provide service and support for Dell products and expects to select a new partner within 30 days, said Dell's vice chairman, Mort Topfer.
- The American Stock Exchange's board approved final terms of its agreement to be acquired by the National Association of Securities Dealers, clearing the way for exchange members to vote on the accord. The exchange said it expected a shareholder vote on the plan in May or June.
- Computer Associates International Inc. plans to sell \$1.6 billion of bonds in three separate issues in the next few weeks to lock in low interest rates.
- American Express Co.'s shares rose after a report that the Justice Department had recommended antitrust charges against its main rivals, Visa U.S.A. and MasterCard International Inc. American Express closed at \$107.4375, up \$3.50.
- The Internet Advertising Bureau said on-line advertising revenue more than tripled last year, to a record \$907 million. On-line ad spending in the fourth quarter of 1997 rose to an unprecedented \$336 million from \$227 million in the third quarter.
- Vivus Inc. reported a first-quarter loss of \$2.4 million, wider than expected, as it spent more to market its impotence treatment before the introduction of Pfizer Inc.'s rival drug. The loss compared with a profit of \$9.6 million a year earlier.
- Richfood Holdings Inc. agreed to buy Dart Group Corp. for \$207 million to expand the market share of its warehouse-style grocery-store chain in the Washington area.
- Canada's number of unemployed fell by 25,000 in March, and the unemployment rate edged down 0.1 percentage point, to 8.5 percent, the lowest level since August 1990.
- A federal judge ordered the government to pay \$42.3 million to three men who helped the Justice Department expose Medicare fraud at SmithKline Beecham Clinical Laboratories Inc.

(Bloomberg, Reuters, AP)

Microsoft to Acquire Firefly

Continued from Page 1

REDMOND, Washington — Microsoft Corp. said Thursday it would buy privately held Firefly Network Inc., a developer of privacy technology for the Internet. Terms were not disclosed.

Firefly, based in Cambridge, Massachusetts, will provide Microsoft with technologies designed to provide security for the exchange of private information on the Internet. Firefly's technology gives Web surfers recommendations on such things as local restaurants based on the user's preferences.

"Privacy is not a product differentiator, it is a fundamental right for Internet consumers," said Bob Herbold, Microsoft's chief operating officer.

Firefly will move its offices to Redmond from Cambridge, and its employees will report to Microsoft's Web essentials group, which includes the Microsoft Network, its Expedia travel site, Sidewalk and other on-line properties.

Microsoft said in February it would close its on-line entertainment offerings, most of which had been losing money.

(Reuters, Bloomberg)

INTERNATIONAL MARKETS

April 9, 1998					High Low Last Chg Opnl					High Low Last Chg Opnl					
Grains					High Low Last Chg Opnl					High Low Last Chg Opnl					
CORN (CBOT)					15,000 lbs. - cents per bushel					10-YEAR FRENCH GOV. BONDS (MATIF)					
May 98	225	22 1/2	22 1/2	+1/4	111.80					Dec 96	95.90	95.87	95.90	+0.03	133.77
Jul 98	225	23 1/2	23 1/2	+1/4	111.80					Dec 97	95.90	95.87	95.90	+0.03	133.88
Sep 98	225	24 1/2	24 1/2	+1/4	111.80					Dec 98	95.90	95.87	95.90	+0.03	133.99
Nov 98	225	25 1/2	25 1/2	+1/4	111.80					Dec 99	95.90	95.87	95.90	+0.03	134.10
Jan 99	225	26 1/2	26 1/2	+1/4	111.80					Dec 00	95.90	95.87	95.90	+0.03	134.21
Mar 99	225	27 1/2	27 1/2	+1/4	111.80					Dec 01	95.90	95.87	95.90	+0.03	134.32
May 99	225	28 1/2	28 1/2	+1/4	111.80					Dec 02	95.90	95.87	95.90	+0.03	134.43
Jul 99	225	29 1/2	29 1/2	+1/4	111.80					Dec 03	95.90	95.87	95.90	+0.03	134.54
Sep 99	225	30 1/2	30 1/2	+1/4	111.80					Dec 04	95.90	95.87	95.90	+0.03	134.65
Nov 99	225	31 1/2	31 1/2	+1/4	111.80					Dec 05	95.90	95.87	95.90	+0.03	134.76
Jan 00	225	32 1/2	32 1/2	+1/4	111.80					Dec 06	95.90	95.87	95.90	+0.03	134.87
Mar 00	225	33 1/2	33 1/2	+1/4	111.80					Dec 07	95.90	95.87	95.90	+0.03	134.98
May 00	225	34 1/2	34 1/2	+1/4	111.80					Dec 08	95.90	95.87	95.90	+0.03	135.09
Jul 00	225	35 1/2	35 1/2	+1/4	111.80					Dec 09	95.90	95.87	95.90	+0.03	135.20
Sep 00	225	36 1/2	36 1/2	+1/4	111.80					Dec 10	95.90	95.87	95.90	+0.03	135.31
Nov 00	225	37 1/2	37 1/2	+1/4	111.80					Dec 11	95.90	95.87	95.90	+0.03	135.42
Jan 01	225	38 1/2	38 1/2	+1/4	111.80					Dec 12	95.90	95.87	95.90	+0.03	135.53
Mar 01	225	39 1/2	39 1/2	+1/4	111.80					Dec 13	95.90	95.87	95.90	+0.03	135.64
May 01	225	40 1/2	40 1/2	+1/4	111.80					Dec 14	95.90	95.87	95.90	+0.03	135.75
Jul 01	225	41 1/2	41 1/2	+1/4	111.80					Dec 15	95.90	95.87	95.90	+0.03	135.86
Sep 01	225	42 1/2	42 1/2	+1/4	111.80					Dec 16	95.90	95.87	95.90	+0.03	135.97
Nov 01	225	43 1/2	43 1/2	+1/4	111.80					Dec 17	95.90	95.87	95.90	+0.03	136.08
Jan 02	225	44 1/2	44 1/2	+1/4	111.80					Dec 18	95.90	95.87	95.90	+0.03	136.19
Mar 02	225	45 1/2	45 1/2	+1/4	111.80					Dec 19	95.90	95.87	95.90	+0.03	136.30
May 02	225	46 1/2	46 1/2	+1/4	111.80					Dec 20	95.90	95.87	95.90	+0.03	136.41
Jul 02	225	47 1/2	47 1/2	+1/4	111.80					Dec 21	95.90	95.87	95.90	+0.03	136.52
Sep 02	225	48 1/2	48 1/2	+1/4	111.80					Dec 22	95.90	95.87	95.90	+0.03	136.63
Nov 02	225	49 1/2	49 1/2	+1/4	111.80					Dec 23	95.90	95.87	95.90	+0.03	136.74
Jan 03	225	50 1/2	50 1/2	+1/4	111.80					Dec 24	95.90	95.87	95.90	+0.03	136.85
Mar 03	225	51 1/2	51 1/2	+1/4	111.80					Dec 25	95.90	95.87	95.90	+0.03	136.96
May 03	225	52 1/2	52 1/2	+1/4	111.80					Dec 26	95.90	95.87	95.90	+0.03	137.07
Jul 03	225	53 1/2	53 1/2	+1/4	111.80					Dec 27	95.90	95.87	95.90	+0.03	137.18
Sep 03	225	54 1/2	54 1/2	+1/4	111.80					Dec 28	95.90	95.87	95.90	+0.03	137.29
Nov 03	225	55 1/2	55 1/2	+1/4	111.80					Dec 29	95.90	95.87	95.90	+0.03	137.40
Jan 04	225	56 1/2	56 1/2	+1/4	111.80					Dec 30	95.90	95.87	95.90	+0.03	137.51
Mar 04	225	57 1/2	57 1/2	+1/4	111.80					Dec 31	95.90	95.87	95.90	+0.03	137.62
May 04	225	58 1/2	58 1/2	+1/4	111.80					Dec 32	95.90	95.87	95.90	+0.03	137.73
Jul 04	225	59 1/2	59 1/2	+1/4	111.80					Dec 33	95.90	95.87	95.90	+0.03	137.84
Sep 04	225	60 1/2	60 1/2	+1/4	111.80					Dec 34	95.90	95.87	95.90	+0.03	137.95
Nov 04	225	61 1/2	61 1/2	+1/4	111.80					Dec 35	95.90	95.87	95.90	+0.03	138.06
Jan 05	225	62 1/2	62 1/2	+1/4	111.80					Dec 36	95.90	95.87	95.90	+0.03	138.17
Mar 05	225	63 1/2	63 1/2	+1/4	111.80					Dec 37	95.90	95.87	95.90	+0.03	138.28
May 05	225	64 1/2	64 1/2	+1/4	111.80					Dec 38	95.90	95.87	95.90	+0.03	138.39
Jul 05	225	65 1/2	65 1/2	+1/4	111.80					Dec 39	95.90	95.87	95.90	+0.03	138.50
Sep 05	225	66 1/2	66 1/2	+1/4	111.80					Dec 40	95.90	95.87	95.90	+0.03	138.61
Nov 05	225	67 1/2	67 1/2	+1/4	111.80					Dec 41	95.90	95.87	95.90	+0.03	138.72
Jan 06	225	68 1/2	68 1/2	+1/4	111.80					Dec 42	95.90	95.87	95.90	+0.03	138.83
Mar 06	225	69 1/2	69 1/2	+1/4	111.80					Dec 43	95.90	95.87	95.90	+0.03	138.94
May 06	225	70 1/2	70 1/2	+1/4	111.80					Dec 44	95.90	95.87	95.90	+0.03	139.05
Jul 06	225	71 1/2	71 1/2	+1/4	111.80					Dec 45	95.90	95.87	95.90	+0.03	139.16
Sep 06	225	72 1/2	72 1/2	+1/4	111.80					Dec 46	95.90	95.87	95.90	+0.03	139.27
Nov 06	225	73 1/2	73 1/2	+1/4	111.80					Dec 47	95.90	95.87	95.90	+0.03	139.38
Jan 07	225	74 1/2	74 1/2	+1/4	111.80					Dec 48	95.90	95.87	95.90	+0.03	139.49
Mar 07	225	75 1/2	75 1/2	+1/4	111.80					Dec 49	95.90	95.87	95.90	+0.03	139.60
May 07	225	76 1/2	76 1/2	+1/4	111.80					Dec 50	95.90	95.87	95.90	+0.03	139.71
Jul 07	225	77 1/2	77 1/2	+1/4	111.80					Dec 51	95.90	95.87	95.90	+0.03	139.82
Sep 07	225	78 1/2	78 1/2	+1/4	111.80					Dec 52	95.90	95.87	95.90	+0.03	139.93
Nov 07	225	79 1/2	79 1/2	+1/4	111.80					Dec 53	95.90	95.87	95.90	+0.03	140.04
Jan 08	225	80 1/2	80 1/2	+1/4	111.80					Dec 54	95.90	95.87	95.90	+0.03	140.15
Mar 08	225	81 1/2	81 1/2	+1/4	111.80					Dec 55	95.90	95.87	95.90	+0.03	140.26
May 08	225	82 1/2	82 1/2	+1/4	111.80					Dec 56	95.90	95.87	95.90	+0.03	140.37
Jul 08	225	83 1/2	83 1/2	+1/4	111.80					Dec 57	95.90	95.87	95.90	+0.03	140.48
Sep 08	225	84 1/2	84 1/2	+1/4	111.80					Dec 58	95.90	95.87	95.90	+0.03	140.59
Nov 08	225	85 1/2	85 1/2	+1/4	111.80					Dec 59	95.90	95.87	95.90	+0.03	140.70
Jan 09	225	86 1/2	86 1/2	+1/4	111.80					Dec 60	95.90	95.87	95.90	+0.03	140.81
Mar 09	225	87 1/2	87 1/2	+1/4	111.80					Dec 61	95.90	95.87	95.90	+0.03	140.92
May 09	225	88 1/2	88 1/2	+1/4	111.80					Dec 62	95.90	95.87	95.90	+0.03	141.03
Jul 09	225	89 1/2	89 1/2	+1/4	111.80					Dec 63	95.90	95.87	95.90	+0.03	141.14
Sep 09	225	90 1/2	90 1/2	+1/4	111.80					Dec 64	95.90	95.87	95.90	+0.03	141.25
Nov 09	225	91 1/2	91 1/2	+1/4	111.80					Dec 65	95.90	95.87	95.90	+0.03	141.36
Jan 10	225	92 1/2	92 1/2	+1/4	111.80					Dec 66	95.90	95.87	95.90	+0.03	141.47
Mar 10	225	93 1/2	93 1/2	+1/4	111.80					Dec 67	95.90	95.87	95.90	+0.03	141.58
May 10	225	94 1/2	94 1/2	+1/4	111.80					Dec 68	95.90	95.87	95.90	+0.03	141.69
Jul 10	225	95 1/2	95 1/2	+1/4	111.80					Dec 69	95.90	95.87	95.90	+0.03	141.80
Sep 10	225	96 1/2	96 1/2	+1/4	111.80					Dec 70	95.90	95.87	95.90	+0.03	141.91
Nov 10	225	97 1/2	97 1/2	+1/4	111.80					Dec 71	95.90	95.87	95.90	+0.03	142.02
Jan 11	225	98 1/2	98 1/2	+1/4	111.80					Dec 72	95.90	95.87	95.90	+0.03	142.13
Mar 11	225	99 1/2	99 1/2	+1/4	111.80					Dec 73	95.90	95.87	95.90	+0.03	142.24
May 11	225	100 1/2	100 1/2	+1/4	111.80					Dec 74	95.90	95.87	95.90	+0.03	142.35
Jul 11	225	101 1/2	101 1/2	+1/4	111.80					Dec 75	95.90	95.87	95.90	+0.03	142.46
Sep 11	225	102 1/2	102 1/2	+1/4	111.80					Dec 76	95.90	95.87	95.90	+0.03	142.57
Nov 11	225	103 1/2	103 1/2	+1/4	111.80					Dec 77	95.90	95.87	95.90	+0.03	142.68
Jan 12	225	104 1/2	104 1/2	+1/4	111.80					Dec 78	95.90	95.87	95.90	+0.03	142.79
Mar 12	225	105 1/2	105 1/2	+1/4	111.80					Dec 79	95.90	95.87	95.90	+0.03	142.90
May 12	225	106 1/2	106 1/2	+1/4	111.80					Dec 80	95.90	95.87	95.90	+0.03	143.01
Jul 12	225	107 1/2	107 1/2	+1/4	111.80					Dec 81	95.90	95.87	95.90	+0.03	143.12
Sep 12	225	108 1/2	108 1/2	+1/4	111.80					Dec 82	95.90	95.87	95.90	+0.03	143.23
Nov 12	225	109 1/2	109 1/2	+1/4	111.80					Dec 83	95.90	95.87	95.90	+0.03	143.34
Jan 13	225	110 1/2	110 1/2	+1/4	111.80					Dec 84	95.90	95.87	95.90	+0.03	143.45
Mar 13															

سكنا في العمل

EUROPE

Amid Protests, Athens Votes to Trim Airline

Compiled by Staff from Dispatches



Passengers waiting in the Athens airport during a strike this week.

Sales of Rolls And Bentleys Plunge Globally

Reuters

LONDON — Vickers PLC, owner of Rolls-Royce Motor Cars Ltd., announced a fall in sales of Rolls-Royce and Bentley cars Thursday, while the luxury car unit remains the focus of a takeover battle between two German automobile giants.

Vickers, which put up Rolls-Royce Motor Cars for sale last year, said global sales of Rolls-Royce and its sister Bentley cars had fallen to 251 in the first quarter of 1998 from 446 in the first quarter of 1997.

The German car rivals Bayerische Motoren Werke AG and Volkswagen AG are battling to buy Rolls-Royce Motor Cars, with Vickers having chosen BMW as its preferred bidder after a \$340 million (\$564.4 million) offer.

The BMW chief executive, Bernd Pischetsrieder, remains confident of winning Rolls despite a higher bid from Volkswagen, believed to be between £360 million and £380 million.

Sales of Rolls and Bentley cars fell in most of their markets in the first quarter. In Britain, 151 cars were sold as against 236 previously; in the Americas, sales fell to 51 from 92; in continental Europe, they fell to 19 from 35, and in Japan, six cars were sold as against 32.

ATHENS — Parliament passed a bill Thursday to slash costs at Olympic Airways, sending Greek stock prices to a record, but labor unions throughout the country staged a 24-hour strike and marched on Parliament to protest the plan.

Adopted 158-124 as the Socialist government held the support of all but one of its members, the bill aims to cut 42 billion drachmas (\$13.6 million) in annual costs at the unprofitable state-controlled carrier and to save a total of about 250 billion drachmas over five years.

The bill also seeks to impose a three-year wage freeze, cut benefits and lengthen working hours.

Reorganization of the airline is seen as a test of Greece's determination to reform state industries — and eventually sell some of them — to cut its deficit and increase efficiency before joining European economic and monetary union in 2001.

Thousands of union members joined in the strike to protest the bill, which was viewed as a precursor to deep cuts in other state-run industries.

Greece's benchmark 60-share ASE index closed up 32.63 points, or 1.54 percent, at a record 2,157.9, led largely by gains in shares of state-controlled companies. But analysts warned that it was too early to say whether the reforms would prove successful.

The bill's passage came after Olympic's management and workers agreed Wednesday night on amendments that watered down

some of the bill's provisions, eliminating about 8 billion drachmas of cuts from the government's previous plan.

Platon Monokroussos, an economist at ABN-AMRO Bank in Athens, said, "The only definite thing at this moment is that the government compromised some of its original plans to secure the bill's passage."

With sales of about 270 billion drachmas last year, Olympic is smaller than most other national European airlines and is viewed as one of the continent's least efficient carriers. Analysts estimate it lost about 7 billion drachmas last year.

Taxpayers were obliged in 1994 to pay 620 billion drachmas to write off Olympic's debt in a four-year recovery plan approved by the European Union. The government said then that it was Olympic's last chance to survive.

The government took over the carrier from the shipping tycoon Aristotle Onassis in 1975. In the past four years alone, the government has poured 627 billion drachmas into the airline.

Finance Minister Yannis Pappanotou said the reform of state-owned companies is a government priority.

"Olympic's history under state management is a very sad story," one of the carrier's former managing directors said. "Billions have been pumped into this company over the years for political favors and scandalous benefits."

(Bloomberg, Reuters)

Investor's Europe

Frankfurt DAX	London FTSE 100 Index	Paris CAC 40
5400	6200	4200
5000	5800	3800
4700	5500	3500
4300	5200	3200
4000	5000	3000
3800	4800	2800
3600	4600	2600
3400	4400	2400
3200	4200	2200
3000	4000	2000
2800	3800	1800
2600	3600	1600
2400	3400	1400
2200	3200	1200
2000	3000	1000
1800	2800	800
1600	2600	600
1400	2400	400
1200	2200	200
1000	2000	0

Source: Reuters

Very briefly:

- The European Commission extended an investigation into promotional offers by British Airways PLC designed to attract and retain business from British travel agencies. The competition commissioner, Karel Van Miert, acting on a complaint from Virgin Group, raised the issue in January 1997 and now says BA's response has been inadequate.
- GTECH Corp. was cleared to retain a role in Britain's lottery. The U.S.-based company's position had been in question since its former chairman, Guy Snowden, lost a libel case that centered on allegations that he had tried to bribe the entrepreneur Richard Branson to withdraw a rival bid for the lottery contract.
- Koninklijke PTT Nederland, the Dutch post and telecommunications company, said net profit rose 9 percent, to 2.69 billion guilders (\$1.31 billion), in 1997. The company will take a restructuring charge of 500 million to 800 million guilders this year as it splits into separate telecommunications, international post and freight divisions.
- GEC Alsthom, a British-French energy and transportation company, is buying Alcatel Alsthom SA's Cegelec engineering division to try to build up its business before making an initial public offering this year.
- Publicis SA, a French advertising company, said Somarel, the family holding that controls it, had agreed to open its capital to outside investors, allowing dissident family members to sell their shares.
- LLP Group PLC, publisher of the shipping newspaper Lloyd's List, plans to float 48.25 million shares next week on the London Stock Exchange at a price of 285 pence a share, giving it a market value of £137.5 million (\$229.3 million).
- Sita SA, the largest European waste-services company, said profit rose 15 percent last year, to 298 million French francs (\$48.5 million). Revenue at the company controlled by Suez-Lyonnais des Eaux SA rose 18 percent, to 10.9 billion francs.
- JCI Ltd., a South African mining company, agreed to sell its stake in Consolidated Metallurgical Industries Ltd. and a metals trading company, Societe Anonyme des Minerais, along with mineral rights, to Suedelektro Holding AG of Switzerland for about 885 million rand (\$175.3 million).
- London & Continental Railways, the consortium that is building the rail link between the Channel tunnel and London, named John Neerboth executive chairman to steer the group through funding negotiations.

(Bloomberg, AFP, Reuters)

Consumer Confidence Rises To a 3-Year High in France

Bloomberg News

PARIS — French consumer confidence rose in March to a three-year high as economic growth persuaded people that their jobs were more secure and that they could afford to spend more money, a government report showed Thursday.

The national statistics office Insee said its index of consumer confidence rose to minus 18, its highest level since May 1995, from a revised minus 21 in February. The index is calculated by subtracting negative responses from positive answers to a questionnaire.

The report suggests the pace of economic growth is accelerating, as consumer spending accounts for 60 percent of gross domestic product. Finance Minister Dominique Strauss-Kahn said Thursday that faster growth would raise enough tax revenue to cut the budget deficit to 2.3 percent of GDP in 1999 from 3 percent of GDP in 1998 — the target

for nations joining Europe's planned single currency.

"The improvement in March confirms that economic growth is picking up steam," said Valerie Plagnol, an economist at Credit Commercial de France in Paris.

New car registrations, an indicator of the strength of consumer demand, rose 10 percent in March from a year earlier, according to figures released last week. Higher spending means Europe's second-biggest economy is likely to expand by 3 percent this year, up from 2.4 percent in 1997, Mr. Strauss-Kahn said.

There was little market reaction to the report as most investors did not believe that faster economic growth would lead to higher inflation. The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development said Wednesday that France's inflation rate was likely to fall to 1 percent in 1998 from 1.2 percent in 1997.

Agency Identifies Flaw on Ariane-5

Reuters

CAYENNE, French Guiana — Officials said Thursday that excessive roll in Ariane-5's Ariane-5 rocket caused a test satellite to be launched into the wrong orbit last year.

The European Space Agency and the French Space Agency, which manage the program, said the technical problem would be eliminated.

The \$10 billion Ariane-5 program is designed to keep Europe in the lead in launching heavy satellites. But on its first test flight in June 1996, the rocket exploded 37 seconds after it was launched from Kourou, French Guiana, on the northeast coast of South America. A second test in October last year encountered problems when the unmanned rocket's main engine shut down too early and the dummy satellite payload was placed in a lower-than-expected orbit.

GM's International Unit Set To Leave Zurich for Detroit

Compiled by Staff from Dispatches

ZURICH — General Motors Corp. said Thursday it would move the offices of its international division from Zurich to the company's headquarters in Detroit, a move that analysts said would tighten control as the world's largest carmaker moved to focus more on non-U.S. markets.

Louis Hughes, head of GM's international operations, and about 30 other senior executives will move to GM's headquarters at the Renaissance Center in Detroit. Other key executives will stay, including the chief of European technical development, Peter Hanenberger, and the head of manufacturing, Gary Cowger, GM said.

GM is increasingly looking outside Europe for international expansion, using its Opel brand and investing \$2.7 billion to push into emerging markets such as Russia. In Europe, GM's German unit, Adam Opel AG, has been lagging behind competitors who have pushed new

models and waged a price war.

"There is a sense of tightening the reins here as GM is on a roll and Opel is not doing so well," said Nigel Griffiths, an analyst at Standard & Poor's DRI in Britain. "If you want to be a global company, paradoxically, you have to control it from one place."

Adam Opel said it expected to lose as much as 250 million Deutsche marks (\$136 million) in 1997 and planned to cut 4,000 jobs in Germany. GM's international operations were based in Detroit until 1992, when Mr. Hughes was put in charge of the unit. He succeeded John Smith, who was named GM's chief executive and later its chairman.

With Mr. Smith's blessing, Mr. Hughes shifted the international operations base to Zurich, where offices could be open during part of the business day in both Asia and North America. Zurich will remain the European regional headquarters of GM.

(Reuters, Bloomberg)

Markets Closed

The stock markets in Bombay, Copenhagen, Helsinki, Madrid, Manila, Mexico, Oslo and Sao Paulo were closed Thursday for a holiday.

Seoul

Composite index: 4681.1
Prev: 4655.3
High: 4700.0
Low: 4650.0
Close: 4681.1
Change: +25.8

Tokyo

Nikkei 225: 14,524.44
Prev: 14,524.44
High: 14,524.44
Low: 14,524.44
Close: 14,524.44
Change: 0.00

Singapore

Straits Times: 19,946.85
Prev: 19,946.85
High: 19,946.85
Low: 19,946.85
Close: 19,946.85
Change: 0.00

Stockholm

SX 14 index: 4044.26
Prev: 4044.26
High: 4044.26
Low: 4044.26
Close: 4044.26
Change: 0.00

Paris

CAC 40: 38,448.48
Prev: 38,448.48
High: 38,448.48
Low: 38,448.48
Close: 38,448.48
Change: 0.00

Amsterdam

AEX index: 1,168.87
Prev: 1,168.87
High: 1,168.87
Low: 1,168.87
Close: 1,168.87
Change: 0.00

Brussels

BEL-20 index: 3,051.84
Prev: 3,051.84
High: 3,051.84
Low: 3,051.84
Close: 3,051.84
Change: 0.00

Frankfurt

DAX: 3,377.22
Prev: 3,377.22
High: 3,377.22
Low: 3,377.22
Close: 3,377.22
Change: 0.00

Johannesburg

All Share: 7,704.91
Prev: 7,704.91
High: 7,704.91
Low: 7,704.91
Close: 7,704.91
Change: 0.00

Lima

BVL: 1,157.59
Prev: 1,157.59
High: 1,157.59
Low: 1,157.59
Close: 1,157.59
Change: 0.00

Manila

PSE: 1,157.59
Prev: 1,157.59
High: 1,157.59
Low: 1,157.59
Close: 1,157.59
Change: 0.00

Mexico

IPC: 1,157.59
Prev: 1,157.59
High: 1,157.59
Low: 1,157.59
Close: 1,157.59
Change: 0.00

Moscow

RTS: 1,157.59
Prev: 1,157.59
High: 1,157.59
Low: 1,157.59
Close: 1,157.59
Change: 0.00

New York

DJIA: 1,157.59
Prev: 1,157.59
High: 1,157.59
Low: 1,157.59
Close: 1,157.59
Change: 0.00

Oslo

BHEL: 1,157.59
Prev: 1,157.59
High: 1,157.59
Low: 1,157.59
Close: 1,157.59
Change: 0.00

Sao Paulo

Ibovespa: 1,157.59
Prev: 1,157.59
High: 1,157.59
Low: 1,157.59
Close: 1,157.59
Change: 0.00

Seoul

KOSPI: 1,157.59
Prev: 1,157.59
High: 1,157.59
Low: 1,157.59
Close: 1,157.59
Change: 0.00

Singapore

Straits Times: 1,157.59
Prev: 1,157.59
High: 1,157.59
Low: 1,157.59
Close: 1,157.59
Change: 0.00

Stockholm

SX 14 index: 1,157.59
Prev: 1,157.59
High: 1,157.59
Low: 1,157.59
Close: 1,157.59
Change: 0.00

Tokyo

Nikkei 225: 1,157.59
Prev: 1,157.59
High: 1,157.59
Low: 1,157.59
Close: 1,157.59
Change: 0.00

Zurich

SPI index: 1,157.59
Prev: 1,157.59
High: 1,157.59
Low: 1,157.59
Close: 1,157.59
Change: 0.00

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

Thursday, April 9

Prices in local currencies.

Tel Aviv

High: 1,157.59
Low: 1,157.59
Close: 1,157.59
Change: 0.00

Amsterdam

AEX index: 1,168.87
Prev: 1,168.87
High: 1,168.87
Low: 1,168.87
Close: 1,168.87
Change: 0.00

Bangkok

SET index: 4,442.32
Prev: 4,442.32
High: 4,442.32
Low: 4,442.32
Close: 4,442.32
Change: 0.00

Brussels

BEL-20 index: 3,051.84
Prev: 3,051.84
High: 3,051.84
Low: 3,051.84
Close: 3,051.84
Change: 0.00

Frankfurt

DAX: 3,377.22
Prev: 3,377.22
High: 3,377.22
Low: 3,377.22
Close: 3,377.22
Change: 0.00

Johannesburg

All Share: 7,704.91
Prev: 7,704.91
High: 7,704.91
Low: 7,704.91
Close: 7,704.91
Change: 0.00

Lima

BVL: 1,157.59
Prev: 1,157.59
High: 1,157.59
Low: 1,157.59
Close: 1,157.59
Change: 0.00

Manila

PSE: 1,157.59
Prev: 1,157.59
High: 1,157.59
Low: 1,157.59
Close: 1,157.59
Change: 0.00

Mexico

IPC: 1,157.59
Prev: 1,157.59
High: 1,157.59
Low: 1,157.59
Close: 1,157.59
Change: 0.00

Moscow

RTS: 1,157.59
Prev: 1,157.59
High: 1,157.59
Low: 1,157.59
Close: 1,157.59
Change: 0.00

New York

DJIA: 1,157.59
Prev: 1,157.59
High: 1,157.59
Low: 1,157.59
Close: 1,157.59
Change: 0.00

Oslo

BHEL: 1,157.59
Prev: 1,157.59
High: 1,157.59
Low: 1,157.59
Close: 1,157.59
Change: 0.00

Sao Paulo

Ibovespa: 1,157.59
Prev: 1,157.59
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Low: 1,157.59
Close: 1,157.59
Change: 0.00

Seoul

KOSPI: 1,157.59
Prev: 1,157.59
High: 1,157.59
Low: 1,157.59
Close: 1,157.59
Change: 0.00

Singapore

Straits Times: 1,157.59
Prev: 1,157.59
High: 1,157.59
Low: 1,157.59
Close: 1,157.59
Change: 0.00

Stockholm

SX 14 index: 1,157.59
Prev: 1,157.59
High: 1,157.59
Low: 1,157.59
Close: 1,157.59
Change: 0.00

Tokyo

Nikkei 225: 1,157.59
Prev: 1,157.59
High: 1,157.59
Low: 1,157.59
Close: 1,157.59
Change: 0.00

Zurich

SPI index: 1,157.59
Prev: 1,157.59
High: 1,157.59
Low: 1,157.59
Close: 1,157.59
Change: 0.00

High Low Close Prev.

Kuala Lumpur.

Composite: 67.92
Prev: 64.48
High: 68.00
Low: 67.00
Close: 67.92
Change: +3.44

London

FT-450: 4,100.00
Prev: 4,100.00
High: 4,100.00
Low: 4,100.00
Close: 4,100.00
Change: 0.00

Milan

MIB index: 14,524.44
Prev: 14,524.44
High: 14,524.44
Low: 14,524.44
Close: 14,524.44
Change: 0.00

Montreal

TSX 300: 1,157.59
Prev: 1,157.59
High: 1,157.59
Low: 1,157.59
Close: 1,157.59
Change: 0.00

New York

DJIA: 1,157.59
Prev: 1,157.59
High: 1,157.59
Low: 1,157.59
Close: 1,157.59
Change: 0.00

Oslo

BHEL: 1,157.59
Prev: 1,157.59
High: 1,157.59
Low: 1,157.59
Close: 1,157.59
Change: 0.00

Sao Paulo

Ibovespa: 1,157.59
Prev: 1,157.59
High: 1,157.59
Low: 1,157.59
Close: 1,157.59
Change: 0.00

Seoul

KOSPI: 1,157.59
Prev: 1,157.59
High: 1,157.59
Low: 1,157.59
Close: 1,157.59
Change: 0.00

Singapore

Straits Times: 1,157.59
Prev: 1,157.59
High: 1,157.59
Low: 1,157.59
Close: 1,157.59
Change: 0.00

Stockholm

SX 14 index: 1,157.59
Prev: 1,157.59
High: 1,157.59
Low: 1,157.59
Close: 1,157.59
Change: 0.00

Tokyo

Nikkei 225: 1,157.59
Prev: 1,157.59
High: 1,157.59
Low: 1,157.59
Close: 1,157.59
Change: 0.00

Stock Div Yld PE 100B High Low/Lowest Org

Magellan	1.9	26	558	58.3	57.1	58.4	+2.1
MagGp	1.12	-	2583	75.1	74.4	75.1	+0.7
Magall p	1.52	17	438	18	17.4	17.8	+0.4
Magall	-	-	722	39.4	38.6	39.4	+0.8
MagWell	-	-	180	7.4	7.3	7.4	+0.1

Continued on Page 18

The 1,000 most traded National Market securities
in terms of dollar value, updated twice a year.
The Associated Press.

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سكنا من العمل

SPORTS

McDowell Looks Strong As Angels Edge Red Sox

The Associated Press
ANAHEIM, California — Jack McDowell pitched eight strong innings to earn his first victory in almost a year, beating the Boston Red Sox 2-1.

"He was very good," said Terry Collins, the Angels' manager. "We said it the day we signed him — if he's healthy, we've got a good pitcher."

McDowell, who considered his injury-abbreviated 1997 season a fluke,

AL ROUNDUP

didn't appear surprised by his performance on Wednesday night. "It seems to me like I didn't really miss all that much last year," he said.

McDowell had arthroscopic surgery on his elbow last May and then developed a bone bruise during rehabilitation that kept him sidelined for the rest of the season. His last triumph was a 7-1 decision over Toronto on May 7, pitching for the Cleveland Indians.

On Wednesday, McDowell scattered seven hits against the Red Sox, all singles except for John Valentin's leadoff homer in the fourth. The right-hander struck out six and walked one.

McDowell (1-1), the 1993 Cy Young Award winner with the Chicago White Sox, lost his first start with the Angels, giving up five runs on eight hits in seven innings in a 6-2 loss to Cleveland.

Asked about the fact that he had pitched 15 innings in his first two starts in

nearly a year, McDowell said: "I knew from late in spring training that I was ready to go. I'm not one of those guys who thinks you have to have to build up to a certain pitch count when the season starts. When you're ready, you're ready."

Tim Salmon brought Anaheim from behind with a two-run single in the sixth inning as the Angels completed a three-game sweep of the Red Sox. Boston scored just one run in each of the losses.

Indians 6, Athletics 5; Athletics 3, Indians 1 Kenny Rogers pitched seven strong innings and A.J. Hinch singled home the go-ahead run in the seventh for most Oakland in the second game.

Rogers got his first victory for the A's after the Indians completed a 6-5 victory over Oakland in a rain-delayed game that began Monday night.

Yankees 4, Mariners 3 Chad Curtis hit a two-run homer in the eighth inning to help Bobby Abreu give New York the victory in Hideki Irabu's first start of the season. Graeme Lloyd, the third Yankees pitcher, threw just one-third of an inning but was credited with the victory. The Yankees won consecutive games in Seattle for the first time since 1994.

Irabu went five innings, giving up one run on four hits and two walks.

Blue Jays 9, Twins 6 Shawn Green homered for the third consecutive game, and Jose Canseco had four hits to lead Toronto to a road victory.

• Texas and Chicago were rained out.



Catcher Jeff Reed of the Rockies and Mark McGwire of the Cardinals getting tangled after a pitch went low and into the dirt (lower right).

2 Singles by McGwire Keep Slugger Happy

His RBIs Help Cardinals Beat Rockies, 13-9

The Associated Press
Mark McGwire, who hit 58 home runs last season and one in each of his first four games this season, failed to connect for the second straight game at the "home of the home run," Coors Field in Denver. He did, however, have two singles and batted in two runs as the

second game. Brian Anderson pitched eight innings and allowed seven hits.

Fabregas and Brede connected on consecutive pitches with one out in the fourth off Hideo Nomo to give Arizona a 3-0 lead. It was the first homer for both and the first back-to-back homers in the franchise's brief history.

Phillies 6, Marlins 5 In Philadelphia, Rico Brogna went 4-for-4 and scored three runs as Philadelphia sent Florida to a team-record eighth straight loss.

Astros 6, Braves 3 Jose Lima recovered from a shaky start to win his second consecutive outing and Derek Bell and Sean Berry each hit home runs for visiting Houston. Billy Wagner picked up his second save.

Pirates 5, Braves 3 In Pittsburgh, Jason Kendall homered and went 3-for-3 off Denny Neagle to support another good start by Esteban Loaiza.

Padres 6, Reds 3 Andy Ashby won his first game in nine career decisions against visiting Cincinnati, and Greg Vaughn and Wally Joyner homered.

Ashby did not allow a hit until a leadoff single by Bret Boone in the sixth inning.

• Montreal at Milwaukee and New York at Chicago were rained out.

NL ROUNDUP

St. Louis Cardinals beat the Colorado Rockies, 13-9.

"Who says you have to score runs on a home run?" McGwire said after the game Wednesday. "That's the beauty of the game; you can score runs any which way."

St. Louis had 13 singles and only one home run against Colorado. The Cardinals, who had nine extra-base hits on Tuesday, got only a two-run homer from Ray Lankford in the seventh. Lankford also had a two-run single.

The Cardinals built a 9-1 lead for the second consecutive game, taking advantage of six walks by the Rockies starter, Jamey Wright. The Rockies rallied for the second straight night, closing to 10-8, but could not get closer.

Diamondbacks 3, Dodgers 0 Jorge Fabregas and Brent Brice hit homers on consecutive pitches in Los Angeles as the expansion Diamondbacks won their

SCOREBOARD

BASKETBALL

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

ATLANTIC DIVISION

Team	W	L	Pct.	GB
Philadelphia	24	17	.586	—
New York	23	18	.563	1 1/2
Orlando	22	19	.537	2 1/2
Washington	20	21	.488	4 1/2
Boston	19	22	.462	5 1/2
Charlotte	18	23	.438	6 1/2

CENTRAL DIVISION

Team	W	L	Pct.	GB
Chicago	24	17	.586	—
Indiana	23	18	.563	1 1/2
Atlanta	22	19	.537	2 1/2
Phoenix	20	21	.488	4 1/2
Cleveland	19	22	.462	5 1/2
Detroit	18	23	.438	6 1/2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

MIDWEST DIVISION

Team	W	L	Pct.	GB
San Antonio	24	17	.586	—
Minnesota	23	18	.563	1 1/2
Utah	22	19	.537	2 1/2
Portland	20	21	.488	4 1/2
Denver	19	22	.462	5 1/2
Memphis	18	23	.438	6 1/2

PACIFIC DIVISION

Team	W	L	Pct.	GB
Seattle	24	17	.586	—
L.A. Lakers	23	18	.563	1 1/2
Phoenix	22	19	.537	2 1/2
Portland	20	21	.488	4 1/2
Sacramento	19	22	.462	5 1/2
Golden State	18	23	.438	6 1/2

WEDNESDAY RESULTS

Team	Score	Team	Score
New York	95-82	Charlotte	82-75
San Antonio	95-82	Memphis	82-75
Phoenix	95-82	Portland	82-75
Portland	95-82	Seattle	82-75
Seattle	95-82	Utah	82-75
Utah	95-82	Washington	82-75
Washington	95-82	Wash. Wizards	82-75
Wash. Wizards	95-82	Wash. Wizards	82-75

BASEBALL

MAJOR LEAGUE STANDINGS

American League

EAST DIVISION

Team	W	L	Pct.	GB
Tampa Bay	24	17	.586	—
New York	23	18	.563	1 1/2
Boston	22	19	.537	2 1/2
Chicago	20	21	.488	4 1/2
Philadelphia	19	22	.462	5 1/2
Atlanta	18	23	.438	6 1/2

CENTRAL DIVISION

Team	W	L	Pct.	GB
Minnesota	24	17	.586	—
Chicago	23	18	.563	1 1/2
Atlanta	22	19	.537	2 1/2
Philadelphia	20	21	.488	4 1/2
Washington	19	22	.462	5 1/2
San Diego	18	23	.438	6 1/2

WEST DIVISION

Team	W	L	Pct.	GB
Los Angeles	24	17	.586	—
San Francisco	23	18	.563	1 1/2
Oakland	22	19	.537	2 1/2
Seattle	20	21	.488	4 1/2
Portland	19	22	.462	5 1/2
San Diego	18	23	.438	6 1/2

National League

EAST DIVISION

Team	W	L	Pct.	GB
Atlanta	24	17	.586	—
Philadelphia	23	18	.563	1 1/2
Washington	22	19	.537	2 1/2
San Diego	20	21	.488	4 1/2
St. Louis	19	22	.462	5 1/2
San Francisco	18	23	.438	6 1/2

CENTRAL DIVISION

Team	W	L	Pct.	GB
St. Louis	24	17	.586	—
Philadelphia	23	18	.563	1 1/2
Washington	22	19	.537	2 1/2
San Diego	20	21	.488	4 1/2
St. Louis	19	22	.462	5 1/2
San Francisco	18	23	.438	6 1/2

WEST DIVISION

Team	W	L	Pct.	GB
Los Angeles	24	17	.586	—
San Francisco	23	18	.563	1 1/2
Oakland	22	19	.537	2 1/2
Seattle	20	21	.488	4 1/2
Portland	19	22	.462	5 1/2
San Diego	18	23	.438	6 1/2

CRICKET

INDIA VS. ZIMBABWE

TRIANGULAR TOURNAMENT

THURSDAY IN CUTTACK, INDIA

Team	W	L	Pct.	GB
India	24	17	.586	—
Zimbabwe	23	18	.563	1 1/2
Pakistan	22	19	.537	2 1/2
South Africa	20	21	.488	4 1/2
England	19	22	.462	5 1/2
West Indies	18	23	.438	6 1/2

WEST INDIES VS. ENGLAND

5TH AND FINAL 1-DAY INTERNATIONAL

WEDNESDAY IN PORT OF SPAIN, TRINIDAD

Team	W	L	Pct.	GB
West Indies	24	17	.586	—
England	23	18	.563	1 1/2
Pakistan	22	19	.537	2 1/2
South Africa	20	21	.488	4 1/2
India	19	22	.462	5 1/2
Zimbabwe	18	23	.438	6 1/2

LIBERTY CUP

FIRST ROUND

SPORTING CRISTAL, PERU, V. COLON, ARGENTINA, 1

GRANMA, BRAZIL, V. AMERICA, MEXICO, 0

DAVIS CUP

WORLD GROUP

QUALIFYING ROUND DRAW

1. Australia v. Romania

2. Czech Republic v. South Africa

3. Israel v. France

4. Sri Lanka v. India

5. Netherlands v. Ecuador

6. Japan v. Russia

7. Argentina v. Slovakia

8. Belarus v. Czech Republic

9. Bulgaria v. Romania

10. Hungary v. Slovakia

11. Lithuania v. Latvia

12. Estonia v. Latvia

13. Belarus v. Czech Republic

14. Bulgaria v. Romania

15. Hungary v. Slovakia

16. Lithuania v. Latvia

17. Estonia v. Latvia

18. Belarus v. Czech Republic

19. Bulgaria v. Romania

20. Hungary v. Slovakia

21. Lithuania v. Latvia

22. Estonia v. Latvia

23. Belarus v. Czech Republic

24. Bulgaria v. Romania

25. Hungary v. Slovakia

26. Lithuania v. Latvia

27. Estonia v. Latvia

28. Belarus v. Czech Republic

29. Bulgaria v. Romania

30. Hungary v. Slovakia

31. Lithuania v. Latvia

32. Estonia v. Latvia

SOCCER

WEDNESDAY RESULTS

EUROPEAN CUP FINAL

1. Borussia Dortmund v. Lazio, 1-0

2. Bayern Munich v. Arsenal, 1-0

3. Juventus v. Lazio, 1-0

4. Real Madrid v. Lazio, 1-0

5. Bayern Munich v. Arsenal, 1-0

6. Juventus v. Lazio, 1-0

7. Real Madrid v. Lazio, 1-0

8. Bayern Munich v. Arsenal, 1-0

9. Juventus v. Lazio, 1-0

10. Real Madrid v. Lazio, 1-0

11. Bayern Munich v. Arsenal, 1-0

12. Juventus v. Lazio, 1-0

13. Real Madrid v. Lazio, 1-0

14. Bayern Munich v. Arsenal, 1-0

15. Juventus v. Lazio, 1-0

16. Real Madrid v. Lazio, 1-0

17. Bayern Munich v. Arsenal, 1-0

18. Juventus v. Lazio, 1-0

19. Real Madrid v. Lazio, 1-0

20. Bayern Munich v. Arsenal, 1-0

21. Juventus v. Lazio, 1-0

22. Real Madrid v. Lazio, 1-0

23. Bayern Munich v. Arsenal, 1-0

24. Juventus v. Lazio, 1-0

25. Real Madrid v. Lazio, 1-0

26. Bayern Munich v. Arsenal, 1-0

27. Juventus v.

POSTCARD

The Last Book?

By Christopher Lehmann-Haupt
New York Times Service

CAMBRIDGE, Massachusetts. — In the Media Laboratory at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, they are working on a project they call "the last book."

This may sound ominous to book lovers. After all, the Media Lab devotes itself mainly to computers. Looking at a computer means reading an electronic screen, which is decidedly not the way most people want to read a book, particularly the last one.

Reading text on a computer screen is confining and tiresome. You can't see where you are or how far you have to go. You can't leaf through the pages to compare parts of the text or to see what your eye finds at random. You can't comfortably carry a computer screen around with you, to bed, to the beach or to the bathroom.

You can't collect computer screens, or bind them beautifully in vellum or display them on shelves in the spirit that the English novelist Anthony Powell evoked when he titled one of his volumes "Books Do Furnish a Room."

But hold everything! The news is far from grim. The book of the future described to me on a visit to the Media Lab is really a book, just like "Goodnight Moon," "Paradise Lost" or the Gutenberg Bible. It has a binding that could be made of leather if you wanted, and hundreds of pages you can turn one at a time or riffle through.

The key to this book is something called electronic ink, or e-ink, which can be applied to the page from within instead of by a press. Being developed by Joseph Jacobson, an assistant professor at MIT, e-ink consists of microscopic spheres, each about 40 microns in diameter, or about half the thickness of a piece of paper. Each sphere is half black and half white. These spheres can be applied by the millions to paper and then flipped over electronically to either their black sides or their white sides to produce what looks like a traditional printed page.

As envisioned at the Media Lab, the book pages will each have fine wires carrying electricity to flip the dots in the direction of a computer concealed in the book binding. The user will scroll through a list of book titles displayed on the book's spine. If the user selects "Ulysses," the computer will make the text appear on the book's pages by flipping the appropriate spheres to their black or white sides.

As the capacity of the book's memory grows, whole libraries may be installed. Jacobson foresees being able to store the entire U.S. Library of Congress, whose holdings number more than 17 million volumes.

Yet the book would still have the familiar advantages of a book. Jacobson says. You could unplug its power and carry it anywhere. The display would be designed to sense the presence of a stylus, or pen, so that you could underline or write notes on it. You might even be able to dog-ear the book.

Jacobson greatly admires the traditional book. "After all," he added, "if books had been invented after the computer, they would have been considered a big breakthrough. Books have several hundred simultaneous paper-thin, flexible displays. They boot instantly. They run on very low power at a very low cost."

Every book ever published in a single volume? The mind boggles and a dozen questions form. Will this really happen? How soon could the last book be available? "A prototype with just a few pages could be put together in two to three years, with one of 400 pages taking a year or two longer," Jacobson said.

How much will it cost? Jacobson says the volume will probably retail for \$2 to \$4 per reusable page, or \$500 to \$1,000 for a book that is every book, although he is working on ways to reduce costs further.

What about the contents' cost? Books in the public domain could be downloaded for nothing, Jacobson says. For new works and books still in copyright, a system of royalties could be set up in which texts would be encrypted and readers would buy an access code by Internet, phone or wireless transaction.

Will books no longer furnish a room? It looks as if they won't, unless you will still insist on having certain titles on the shelf, to remind you of their existence and your promise to read them some day. The likes of us will have to keep on collecting old-fashioned books. Or maybe resort to displaying those Potemkin villages of books on our shelves, rows and rows of our favorite titles in colors that match the furniture and the pets.

Just one of them will be real and removable from the shelf. It will contain not hollowed-out pages with a gun or a whisky flask, but a treasure far greater: at the touch of a button, any book ever written. And when it is removed, family members will be free to yell a question that might once have reflected a certain benightedness: "Hey! Who's using the book?"

Drawing Chinese Classics Into Whimsical Life

By Steven Mufson
Washington Post Service

BEIJING — Imagine a cross between "Doonesbury" and your college class on Eastern philosophy, and you'll have a good idea of what has made Tsai Chih Chung the most popular cartoonist in Asia.

The slightly built Taiwanese — who began with such comic strip characters as Drunken Swordsman, Fat Dragon, One-Eyed Marsh and Bold Superleuth — has churned out more than 20 comic book versions of Chinese historical and philosophical classics. Soon, he promises, he will also bring out a comic book version of the Asian financial crisis.

"Certain people express themselves through their voices, so speaking is a way for them to express their inner selves," Tsai says. "For me, cartoons are the way to express my inner self."

And not a bad way to earn a living, either. Tsai's books have sold about 30 million copies. The cartoon versions of the classics have struck a chord among Chinese who want to know the ancient myths and teachings that underpin their civilization without plodding through weighty tomes.

In Tsai's boiled-down version of "Romance of the Three Kingdoms," a 14th-century novel about the political maneuvering of ambitious rulers as they fight for supremacy in China, the cartoonist inserts modern references and humor.

One warrior waves an Iraqi flag, a satellite dish is fixed on top of an ancient Chinese building and court officials play mah-jongg or munch beef noodles. Certain lines uttered by characters in the classics have been edited to echo the words of Mao Zedong. A depraved nobleman is shown reading Playboy magazine, and a Taiwanese television cameraman makes a cameo appearance.

Tsai, born in 1948 in a small village, says he started drawing after his father — a part-time farmer, a village clerk and a good calligrapher — bought him a blackboard to practice writing Chinese characters. His mother, worried that he wasn't strong enough to do manual labor, was concerned about how he would support himself.

He began drawing cartoons at 17 and worked as art director for the Kuang Chi program service. He produced two cartoon films for an independent production company, then in 1983 broke into newspaper comics.

In 1987, he published "The Sayings of



Tsai Chih Chung has sold about 30 million copies of his books. "For me, cartoons are the way to express my inner self."



Lu Bu, how dare you touch my lady!

Zhuang Zi," writings of a philosopher from China's turbulent Warring States period (475-221 B.C.). "It was an era in which the strong states devoured the weak, the majority overpowered the minority; a chaotic and pain-stricken era," Tsai wrote, adding that Zhuang Zi "shifted his vision away from worldly matters and cast his sight on the boundless time and space."

The book shot to the top of best-seller lists and has sold a million copies. Later, he added

'All I do is put thoughts into pictures.'

more volumes, including "Origins of Zen," "The Sayings of Mencius" and the Chinese military classic, "The Art of War."

In typical style, "The Art of War" depicts commanders moving men and horses around a chessboard; people waiting to launch an ambush and giggling. "Hee, hee, hee," and horses going bug-eyed with fright into ill-advised battles.

Tsai attributes his popularity to doing something "at the right time and in the right place." He says that Asians, after turning to

Western thought, "now tend to return to their roots."

"All I do is put thoughts into pictures," he adds. "I'm not popular. Lao Zi and Confucius are popular."

During a recent visit to Beijing, Tsai showed his ability to distill Asian philosophy into pithy tales.

"There was this guy who lived in an ancient Chinese city state, Zhu, who lost an expensive bowl," Tsai says. "He wasn't eager to find the bowl, so people asked him why he wasn't trying to get it back. He said if he lost it in the city, it will be found in the city and as far as the city is concerned it wouldn't be lost."

Confucius, however, would say that it wouldn't matter where the bowl was lost because it belongs to the human race, Tsai says. And Lao Zi, founder of Taoism, wouldn't care about human beings at all. He would say "the universe has it."

Born a Christian, Tsai now describes himself as "more inclined to be Taoist."

"I'm similar to a fish," he says. "I know what a fish can or can't do. Sky is for birds, deep water for fish. So if you know yourself, you'll find your heaven."

Tsai says he maintains — relatively speaking — a Taoist ideal of a penniless

state, though he has indulged his passion for Chinese art by accumulating about 2,000 antique pieces.

Soon he will apply his cartooning and storytelling skills to the region's financial crisis. He says he will try to portray all sides of the debate over the causes of the crisis.

"I quote a lot of Western economists saying this indicates that Chinese philosophy isn't suitable for Asia, that the reason for the crash is that Asia didn't follow the Western model," Tsai says. But he also cites Asian views that contend the crisis is due to Westerners trying to "take advantage of the situation by ripping money from Asia."

Then he conjures up visual metaphors to interpret the financial virus that has thrown most of Asia into recession and its stock and currency markets into turmoil.

Tsai says it is like a food chain of grass eaters and meat eaters. "It's all part of the law of the jungle," he says. "Oriental philosophy will help those who can survive this economic chaos."

Or, he adds, "It's like a big warning bell to beckon the end of the century or the beginning of a new era."

Or, he concludes, "It's like an immunization shot to get into the next century."

PEOPLE

THE makers of the film "Titanic" have apologized to a Scottish town for turning its local hero into a villain. The movie showed the Titanic's first officer, William Murdoch, taking a bribe, shooting a steerage passenger who tried to fight his way into a lifeboat and then turning his gun on himself. Twentieth Century-Fox admitted in a letter to Alisdair Morgan, the member of Parliament for Murdoch's hometown, Dalbeattie, that it had no evidence that Murdoch had done any of those things. The studio also donated £5,000 (\$8,300) to a memorial fund set up in Murdoch's honor.

Twelve people, including the Rolling Stones guitarist Ron Wood, were taken off a yacht moments before it burned, off the coast of Rio de Janeiro. No one was injured.

The pop star George Michael was arrested for investigation of engaging in lewd conduct in a park restroom, the police in Beverly Hills, California, said. "I can't go into details of the lewd act," Lieutenant Edward Kreins said. The singer was alone at the time, Kreins said. Michael gave his real name, Georgios Kyria-

cos Panayiotou, and then supplied his stage name when asked if he used any other names. He was released after posting \$500 bail.

Four weeks after his highly publicized divorce became final, Foreign Secretary Robin Cook of Britain evaded the media circus he feared and quietly married his former secretary on Thursday. Cook had announced in late March that he would marry Gaynor Regan, an April 19 at Chevening House, his official country residence. But he moved the date forward to avoid "media intrusion," according to a statement. The ceremony took place at the public registry office in Tunbridge Wells, southeast of London.

Rafi Zabor won the 1998 PEN/Faulkner Award for "The Bear Comes Home," a first novel about a "muzzy medium-brown" bear that quotes Shakespeare and plays the alto sax. The prize comes with \$15,000. The PEN/Faulkner was founded in 1980 as a prize for fiction writers that would be judged by them. This year's judges were Annie Prouts, Madison Smartt Bell and Clarence Major.



A LEG UP — A fifth-grade student, visiting with his classmates, reacting to a short outfit in a student fashion show at Delta College in Auburn, Michigan.



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